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Clinton: Break the logjam

Mordechai postpones trip to US

By HILLEL KUTTLER and DANNA HARMAN

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland — US President Bill Clinton yesterday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to make the compromises necessary to "break the logjam" and produce a "meaningful and enduring agreement" at their summit.

Pronouncements of optimism were the ongoing theme here yesterday.

- US warns of looming disaster, Page 2
- Ehud Barak: No excuses, Page 8
- Stepping-stone summit, Page 13

terday, Channel 2 reported from the US that an agreement had already been prepared for signing on Monday.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, meanwhile, decided late last night to postpone his trip to the US. His spokesman, Avi Benayahu, said the decision was taken in light of the sensitive security situation. He said instead of leaving last night, he would be going tomorrow night and joining the Wye Plantation talks on Sunday morning.

Following a 45-minute morning meeting with Netanyahu and Arafat in the Oval Office, Clinton escorted them onto a podium in the Rose Garden, where he warned them publicly to look at the bigger picture of attaining peace and a "genuine Israeli-Palestinian partnership that will stand the test of time."

"We have come with the intention of reaching an agreement,"



President Bill Clinton delivers a statement in the White House Rose Garden yesterday, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat look on.

Netanyahu later told reporters, "We have 100 percent good intentions."

"I can give 100% effort [in fighting terrorism], but no one in the world can give 100% results," said Arafat.

Netanyahu and Arafat, speaking separately with reporters as they left the grounds, repeated their respective demands for tighter security and land as conditions for success at the summit.

While Clinton stayed behind, Netanyahu and Arafat flew by separate helicopters to the Wye River Conference Center. Clinton later rejoined them. He was scheduled to eat dinner with the parties before

returning Washington.

As he left the White House, Netanyahu cautioned his right-wing coalition partners to rethink their opposition to a redeployment accord, warning them that if they

topple the government, a "left-wing body would replace it, which would retreat from 100% of the territories."

See LOGJAM, Page 18

The business at hand

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — They were like two boys who promise their parents they'll behave, and promptly revert to their naughty ways.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat flanked President Bill Clinton on a glorious autumn morning in the Rose Garden yesterday, as he deflected a shouted question on a Palestinian state by saying that the three had just agreed not to take questions and to instead "get about the business at hand."

So much for that. Within minutes, first Netanyahu and then Arafat told a crush of reporters in the White House driveway that this or that demand is crucial to the success of their upcoming talks at the Wye River Conference Center.

They could not resist, perhaps. Escaping the press might have been the administration's best-intentioned idea for finally securing a redeployment-for-security accord. But Netanyahu and Arafat had one last opportunity for public posturing before entering a sequestered zone — and they were not going to forsake it.

Their rhetoric had not changed. For Netanyahu, security was paramount. Perhaps unwittingly, he even adopted Clinton's six-year-old pledge to Yitzhak Rabin to minimize Israel's risks for peace, with Netanyahu saying that his job as prime minister is to "minimize the dangers."

Arafat, for his part, stressed again that his performance against terrorism has been successful and that doing more is asking too much. Netanyahu, he asserted, is holding up an agreement on a security package.

Both made the case — Netanyahu explicitly — that they are taking risks by being here.

See BUSINESS, Page 18

Moledet moves into Sheikh Jarrah synagogue

By ELI WOHLGELER

A group of 20 yeshiva students, led by Moledet MK Benny Elon, moved into an abandoned synagogue in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood yesterday afternoon, after it was noticed that Arab neighbors had begun building on the property and had partially knocked down a wall.

But Palestinian leaders Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, who arrived at the scene and confronted Elon, said the move was a deliberate provocation on the day the summit meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat began.

After checking ownership documents that Elon had brought,

police said it was perfectly legal to move into the one-room synagogue, which had stood abandoned for 50 years.

As Hussein and Ashrawi walked toward the front door, Elon moved to block their path and requested that they not enter. Despite the underlying tension, a congenial discussion in English followed, as the three stood in the doorway flanked by Moledet flags hanging from the front windows.

"This was a Jewish neighborhood, as you well know, since 100 years ago," Elon said to the Palestinian leaders. "The [issue of the neighborhood] houses that the Palestinians entered was brought to court, and the Israeli court said that they have to pay some rent to the owners, but they

are protected as tenants."

"This synagogue was empty until last month, when they started illegal construction and tried to annex the synagogue, and when it was told to me, I was asked to come here and prevent this illegal building. And the police stopped them, and that's it. If you want to pray in the synagogue, you are welcome."

"So you are talking about a historical matter and a legal matter," replied Hussein. "From our point of view, this was not a *beit knesser* [synagogue], it was a house."

Ashrawi then debated the political ramifications of the act. "If you start unilaterally claiming property and buildings since before '48, then you are telling the Palestinians to start claiming

their property before '48. This is an invitation for chaos. You cannot come and claim something from before '48."

Two hours later, a group of Peace Now demonstrators arrived to protest the move by Elon, and a scuffle broke out that had to be contained by police.

Elon denied that his actions had anything to do with the summit meeting.

"They can say this, they can say that, I don't mind," he said. "I have no strength for Bibi anymore. I'll tell you the truth, I'm so upset with this Wye Plantation, that the only connection was that in the first Minha that we said here today after 50 years, in my heart I prayed that God would not let this summit succeed, and will prevent the bloodshed of Oslo."

September CPI up 1.4%

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 1.4 percent last month, as the initial effects of the shekel's depreciation were felt, with dollar-dependent housing prices rising some 2.6 percent in real terms, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Given the present instability in the currency marketplace, the bureau's economists were yesterday unwilling to predict the rate of inflation to the year's end. September's jump in the CPI means inflation has risen 4% since January 1 and by 4.7% over the last 12 months.

While refusing to say how large the increase in prices will be this month, the bureau's deputy director of the Department of Micro Economic Statistics, Rahamim Ozana, predicted the CPI will be higher than in recent months in October and during the remainder of the year's final quarter.

A full 50% of the September CPI increase was the result of the sharp rise in housing prices, in both rentals and sales. Ozana explained that the dollar's value against the shekel increased 3.7% between its August and September averages and this accounted for most of the hike in housing costs.

The other major increase last month was in the cost of fruits and vegetables, which rose a combined 9.1%. This, explained bureau spokesman David Neumann, was because retailers pushed up their

prices ahead of the High Holy Days.

Given the 8.8% increase in the value of the dollar against the shekel between its September average (NIS 3.8449) and that predicted for October (some NIS 4.2), Ozana suggested housing prices could rise by as much as 6%, when the October CPI is announced this time next month.

If that is the case, then the housing index alone will push the CPI up 1.5%. Additionally, clothing and footwear prices are likely to show a large jump, as winter-wear begins to enter the shops. Last year, clothing prices rose 3% in October.

The one comfort could be that the slowdown will to some extent offset the shekel's devaluation, said Ozana. Before the CPI was published, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said he would not change government economic policy on the basis of one, two or even three rogue months.

"We have a firmly set policy line and that is to reduce inflation, even if there is the odd deviation for a month," said Neeman.

Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb added that, while there is no need to correct his ministry's economic forecasts for the next 15 months, his staff is preparing a proposal to transfer additional reserves to back up the 1999 state budget in case inflation increases above expectations.

See CPI, Page 12

Fed cuts interest rates; stocks soar

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve cut short-term interest rates by a quarter percentage point yesterday, citing "growing caution by lenders and unsettled conditions in financial markets."

The cut turned a ho-hum rally

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	4:30 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
Tel Aviv	4:48 p.m.	5:43 p.m.
Haifa	4:39 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
Beersheba	4:46 p.m.	5:43 p.m.
Eilat	4:47 p.m.	5:44 p.m.



on Wall Street explosive. The Dow Jones average had been up about 100 points before the announcement and closed 331 points higher at 8,299.

In recent years, it has been extremely rare for the Federal Reserve to change interest rates in between its eight regularly scheduled policy-setting meetings.

The last such move came in 1994.

The fact that it did again is a clear sign of growing concern about the economy.

"This means that [Fed Chairman] Alan Greenspan is legitimately worried," said economist Larry Chimerine of Economic Strategy Institute.

"He realizes that not only is there going to be a huge drag on trade from what is happening in Asia, but he is now seeing consumer confidence start to slip. If we start to see consumers

retrench, we will be in a recession."

The Fed cut the overnight rate on loans between banks, the federal funds rate, to 5 percent.

It cut the discount rate on its own loans to banks, also by a quarter point, to 4.75%.

The cut is the second during the past three weeks.

The central bank cut rates for the first time in nearly three years on September 29, also by a quarter point.

In a statement, the Fed said that cautious lending and market turmoil "are likely to be restraining aggregate demand in the future."

Against this backdrop, further easing of the stance of monetary policy was judged to be warranted to sustain economic growth in the context of contained inflation.

Market Reports, Page 12

Woman dies during tooth extraction

By JUDY SIEGEL

Police are investigating the death of Esther Ben-Hamu, 60, of Safed, who died yesterday morning in her dentist's chair after receiving a pain-killing injection before having a tooth extracted.

Pathologists at the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir yesterday began an autopsy on Ben-Hamu. The Health Ministry has appointed a three-member committee to investigate.

The woman — who was known to suffer from heart problems — received lidocaine by injection into the gum. Death after local injection of anesthesia is almost unknown.

The family opposed an autopsy, but the police obtained a court order for it.

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NEWS

in brief

Sharon says he won't shake Arafat's hand

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday he would not shake the hand of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Middle East summit in the US.

Sharon, who flew to Washington later in the day, has for years branded Arafat a "terrorist" and "war criminal." He has vowed never to shake his hand, but speculation has mounted over whether he would have to bend to political realities. *Reuters*

Hussein expects hospital visit from Sharon

Jordan's King Hussein, in the US for chemotherapy, is in good spirits and expecting a visit from Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, the Mayo Clinic said yesterday. Clinic spokeswoman Jane Jacobs said officials are expecting Sharon to make a "personal visit" this afternoon.

Hussein, 62, "is continuing his treatment and he is in good spirits," Jacobs said, adding that Sharon's visit would not be open to the media.

Jordan's Information Minister Nasser Joudeh said in Amman that Hussein had been due to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on Wednesday, but that Arafat arrived too late in the evening. He said the meeting with Arafat was being rescheduled and could take place today. *Reuters*

Jordan: Israel serious about ending impasse

The Israeli government is serious about trying to reach an agreement to end the deadlock in Middle East peace negotiations, Jordanian Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh said yesterday in Cairo.

Tarawneh spoke with reporters after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to brief him on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's talks in Jordan on Wednesday.

"We have the feeling that the Israeli side is ready to engage seriously in the negotiations," Tarawneh said. "Some of the essential files have been already closed through direct negotiations, and they are ready to be included in a complete package." *AP*

Woman lightly wounded in stabbing attack

A young woman was stabbed and lightly wounded last night by a masked man near Moshav Brachia, about 3 kilometers east of Ashkelon.

The assailant fled the scene in a car, security sources said, adding that a massive search for the vehicle had been launched. They said attack might have been a terrorist one, but the motive was not immediately clear.

The woman was taken to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon for treatment. *Itim*

Muallam arrives to take up Galilee bishopric

Boutros Muallam, the new bishop of Galilee, arrived here yesterday and said he does not anticipate problems with Israel, which had initially opposed his appointment.

"I was never officially informed of any position... If what we read in the papers was right, we say in Arabic that to back away from a mistake is a good thing," Muallam said after a ceremony at the Greek Catholic church in Jerusalem.

Asked to address Israeli worries he might play a political role, Muallam said: "I am here as a bishop. I am not a man of politics. But a bishop is a... pastor and he must be as a pastor with his people. I was received by a representative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs... and I'm looking forward to a great collaboration among us." *Reuters*

With May 4 deadline approaching

US warns of 'looming disaster'

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - The administration is eager to conclude the next interim-period deal at the summit that got underway yesterday, so as to avoid a "looming disaster" if there is no progress toward a final-status accord by next May, a senior US official said.

In a briefing for reporters on the eve of the summit, two US officials said that while the sides are close in some areas, no parts of an agreement have been concluded in advance of the summit. The details of the agreement on a central component of the deal - a further redeployment - have been "pretty much resolved," they said.

They indicated that all secondary issues may not be resolved in the summit, but could instead be concluded at a later date.

The officials also confirmed that the US would in the future be, in essence, the referee on whether the Palestinian Authority is complying with the security obligations it concludes with Israel.

"From our end, I think the focus is much more on realizing that if you don't get on to the permanent status issues, if you don't begin to formulate approaches and certain understandings, you are really dealing with a looming disaster because they may well be prepared to take very different postures as you look in the months ahead," the official said.

While the US has made "a good deal more progress" toward an agreement in recent weeks, he said, "the problem has been that if we continue to work at the pace that we were working, we would not get these issues done by the time May 4th rolls around."

He was referring to the date when interim self-rule arrangements are due to expire.

"We need to get on with it," he said.

"One of the reasons for making the decision that the president and



US Vice President Al Gore (left), Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger arrive for the opening ceremony of the Mideast peace talks at the Rose Garden of the White House yesterday. *(AP)*

the secretary did, to bring the parties here and to bring them with their teams here, was to see if we could change the character of the interaction in such a way that we would in fact be able to bring this to a conclusion," he said.

Asked whether the US will have oversight of Palestinians' security performance, one of the officials said that "clearly, we are not interested in coming to an agreement if the agreement itself is something that's not going to be implemented."

"So, I think we will play an ongoing role in the implementation process, and that comes, frankly, at the request of both sides." According to the officials, Clinton intends to "maintain maximum flexibility" in making himself available to the parties this weekend.

Clinton's appearance, the official said that every little forward movement is progress. Even some agreement on some matters would be good.

The Israelis and Palestinians look game, but are as stubborn as ever.

Clinton ends the Rose Garden moment with a declaration to the effect that from now on, the sides will be busy getting down to business, and will not be talking to the press.

Not five minutes later, Netanyahu saunters out of the main gate and into the driveway to hold a press conference. Arafat is not far behind.

Both say they are ready to make a deal, and each tries to outdo the other in descriptions of how far they have already compromised and how impossible it will be for them to compromise any further. It is up to the other side, they say - almost in unison.

And then they are off. Instructed not to return to the diversions of the capital until they come up with some answers, the teams are helicoptered over sparkling rivers, grassy fields, clapping houses, and cursing reporters stuck in traffic jams to the seclusion of Wye Plantation.

It is time, they are told, to get going.

Time to get going

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By DANNA HADANI

Monday" slide. The president, however, is not assured.

A sunny Rose Garden peace ceremony is just what the beleaguered president needs, but to get what he wants he has to hold the ceremony before the peace is signed - for no responsible observer will dare predict whether or not the players will be back here again next week.

The "summit" says one top US official, was always only meant to be a "meeting."

Even as efforts to create a success story continue unabated, expectations are being lowered. At a briefing immediately before

the White House signing on

Israeli producers, yelling into their cellular phones throughout Clinton's welcome speech, are instructing the graphics departments in Tel Aviv to prepare the

"White House signing on

Monday" slide. The president, however, is not assured.

A sunny Rose Garden peace ceremony is just what the beleaguered president needs, but to get what he wants he has to hold the ceremony before the peace is signed - for no responsible observer will dare predict whether or not the players will be back here again next week.

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the White House signing on

PA: Security issues worked out

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Israel and the Palestinian Authority have reached an agreement in principle on a draft of a security accord, Palestinian sources said yesterday, but Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said a gap remains between the two positions.

PA sources said progress was made this week in a series of meetings between Palestinian and Israeli security officials presided over by US representatives, including CIA Director George Tenet.

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"We achieved an agreement in principle regarding security issues," a PA security source said.

The source said the breakthrough occurred on Tuesday night during a meeting between Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz and Gaza security chief Col. Mohammed Dahlan. The source said Dahlan also met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss security issues.

PA sources said Netanyahu told Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan in Amman on Wednesday that progress was achieved in the Dahlan-Mofaz talks.

The sources said the PA has agreed to many of the security demands submitted by Israel, including commitments of cooperation in fighting terror.

See PA, Page 12

Right-wing leaders rebuff Netanyahu appeal

By SARAH HOMIG

Leaders of the right-wing yesterday rejected out of hand Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's appeal that it use its "head and not only its heart," and cease threatening to bring down his government.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party forcefully repeated his party's ultimatum to Netanyahu. If unequivocal reciprocity, as well as other Israeli demands, are not fully met at the talks in Wye, then any agreement which Netanyahu "so much as initials," will spell the end of his government, he stated.

"No sophistry will help here," Yahalom stressed. "We will simply not be able to remain in a government that sacrifices the very basic reasons for which it was established. We cannot acquiesce to cynically betraying those who voted for this government."

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) also continued his battle against a second phase redeployment,

"which will not bring peace, or anything close to peace, or even resembling peace, no matter how often the word peace will be repeated."

"If Israel's negotiators steadfastly stick by the conditions outlined in the government, then there is no chance that an agreement will be reached at this summit. If the Israeli delegation weakens and buckles to pressure, then the picture will obviously be very different. I will not support any agreement reached under these conditions, and Netanyahu is well aware of what the other ministers think... US pressure and US guarantees should not influence us."

Meanwhile, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid yesterday counseled the Right "not to panic because no agreement is imminent despite all the hype pouring out of Washington."

"The situation here is very radically removed from that, making any chance for an agreement faint, if not actually nil," Sarid said.

OPEN LETTER OF THE CHAIRMAN OF GENERALI, ANTOINE BERNHEIM

I have been informed that the Foreign Investors Jubilee Award to be granted to Generali has been withheld pending a resolution on the issue of the publication of the list of names of our assureds in Central and Eastern Europe before World War II.

The facts are as follows:

- what we have found in our archives are the copies of the first pages of the policies issued by our Branch Offices in those countries.
- with great effort we have computerized the essential data contained in those documents as agreed with representatives of the Knesset's finance commission.
- the data so computerized refer to around 340,000 policies issued between 1918 and 1945, of which only about 100,000 remained in force at the time racial laws were introduced in 1938.
- we have established a Policy Information Center which has provided and is providing information to any interested persons.
- we have given the full list of our assureds to Yad Vashem for the purposes of assisting them in their historical search.
- the integrity of the computerization process has been checked by the Italian Insurance Supervisory Authority.
- on the basis of actuarial ledgers, which we were able to reconcile after the computerization program was completed, we are currently engaged in the big effort of identifying each of the policies which were in force on and after 1938.
- in any event the resulting list will include the names of all our assureds, be they Jews or non-Jews and whether or not they were victims of the Holocaust.
- as repeatedly stated and by now openly acknowledged by the Governments involved, all our Central and East European Branch Offices were either nationalized or confiscated after WW II by the incoming communist regimes which took over all our liabilities and the corresponding assets.
- as a consequence, Generali can no longer have any obligations in respect of the policies held by our former assureds.
- in order to honor the memory of those of our assureds who perished in the Holocaust we have established a \$12 million International Fund in Israel run by independent Trustees.
- despite having no legal obligations whatsoever, as indicated above, but in order to arrive at a prompt resolution of the issue of the Holocaust-era insurance policies which also afford immediate relief to the survivors, we have attempted to reach a global settlement, which regrettably could not be finalized.
- we have signed, along with the State of Israel and other parties, a Memorandum which establishes an International Commission for the purpose of expeditiously addressing the issue of unpaid insurance policies of the Holocaust era.
- the Memorandum provides, inter alia, that: the International Commission process shall constitute an exclusive remedy; nationalized policies will give rise to an equitable contribution of purely humanitarian nature; following an investigatory process the Commission will address the issue of the publication of the names of the Holocaust victims who held unpaid insurance policies.

I wish to emphasize that also this provision was accepted and agreed upon by the Representative of the State of Israel.

Notwithstanding all the facts mentioned above we keep being the target of more and more defamatory aggressions and discriminatory treatment, of which the withholding of the Award is only the last episode.

I would conclude by saying that it is not Generali's honor which is affected by this act, but rather the dignity which should rightly have belonged to the Prize and to its bestowers.

Trieste, 14 October, 1998

Antoine Bernheim

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DRIVE CAREFULLY

Ceremony marks closure of Hiriya dump

By LIAT COLLINS

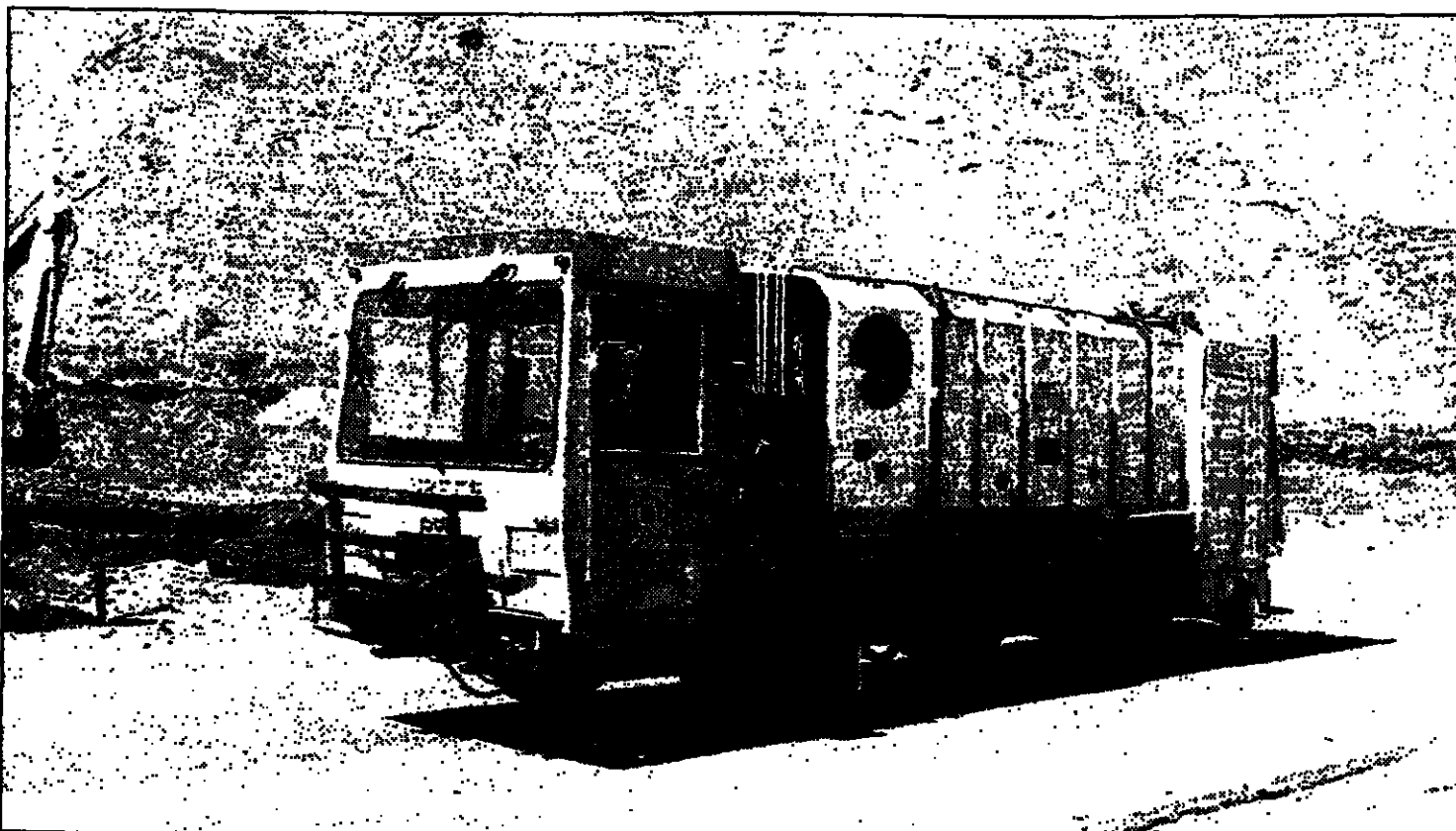
After 50 years as the main garbage dump for the central region, Hiriya was officially closed yesterday in a surrealistic ceremony which included a cocktail party with music by the Tel Aviv Fire Service Band.

Among the dignitaries who assembled for the ceremony on top of the mountainous rubbish heap south of Tel Aviv were Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, and Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor Dan Dizin, who used the opportunity for some mayoral election campaigning. This caused Eitan to remark that it was the wrong time and place. Suissa kept his speech short saying it was "hot and smelly."

While most of the guests felt the heat, the ceremony was held in a plaza above the area containing mainly construction waste, where the smell is barely noticeable and the view, from a height of 80 meters, is impressive.

There have been five government decisions in as many years to close the site, which is considered a major environmental hazard, but the deadline was always extended.

Throughout the ceremony, planes using nearby Ben-Gurion Airport roared overhead, emphasizing that one of the main reasons for its final closure was the threat to air traffic from the swarms of scavenger birds hovering above the garbage. Other dangers include the threat to water sources from leaks; the



The last garbage truck to use the Hiriya dump leaves the site yesterday after dumping its load.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

possibility of explosions from the build-up of gases; and the risk of a repeat of the landslides of garbage caused by heavy winter rains, which last year blocked nearby rivers and caused serious flooding on major roads. It is still not clear what the

future has in store for Hiriya, but the retired garbage dump will not just be trashed. Plans being considered focus on turning it into a recreation area. Eitan promised that the site would not be used for real estate development, despite its economic value.

Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen said engineering work could be undertaken to rehabilitate the site now that it no longer receives thousands of tons of garbage a day. Hiriya, however, is still being

used as a transit point for the garbage which is being transported to other sites around the country. It used to receive some 3,000 tons of waste a day. The NIS 35 million transit station being constructed should be able to handle some 4,000 tons daily.

Soldier fires at car, wounds two

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

An IDF soldier yesterday fired at an Israeli vehicle that sought to enter the Jewish community of Givon, northwest of Jerusalem, lightly injuring a Palestinian worker and an Israeli citizen.

According to the IDF Spokesman, a soldier guarding the entrance to the community, refused to admit an Israeli citizen with a Palestinian passenger in his car, saying the Palestinian did not have the necessary permits.

A dispute broke out and the Israeli citizen ignored the soldier's orders and attempted to drive into the community, which is across the Green Line.

The soldier, the spokesman said, fired shots into the air and then shot again towards the car.

The Palestinian was lightly injured from broken glass and the Israeli citizen suffered from shock. Both were transferred to Hadassah-University Hospital Mount Scopus for treatment.

The spokesman said details concerning the incident were given to police and military police, who are investigating.

Meanwhile, Peace Now said some 6,000 housing units are currently under construction in Judea

and Samaria. Only a small percentage of that number were frozen under the former government, it said.

While settler leaders usually hesitate to agree with the movement, Samaria Regional Council Spokeswoman Ahuva Shilo said yesterday that if the figures include building underway in Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, they could be correct.

Meanwhile, reports of preparations for the construction of 100 housing units in Alei Zahav drew criticism from Peace Now.

Peace Now director general Moshe Raz said that while it was not clear whether the units in Alei Zahav would be a separate settlement or the expansion of the existing community, the construction made clear that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not seeking a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Aryeh Ofri, project supervisor at Alei Zahav, said crews had been working for some three months to prepare the infrastructure. The settlement, he said, received authorization in its outline plan in 1981 to build some 1000 units or more. The Defense Ministry approved the current project over a year ago, he said.

Arson suspected in new Western Galilee blaze Journalists: Speed probe of TA union head

By DAVID RUDGE AND SHI DAVIDI

As assessors began surveying the damage caused by this week's fires, another large blaze broke out between Kafr Rama and Beit Jann in the Western Galilee yesterday, destroying some 100 dunams (25 acres) of natural forest and olive trees.

Firefighters and Jewish National Fund workers were called in from Haifa and other locations along with two IAF helicopters to extinguish the blaze.

The deputy commander of the Fire and Rescue Service in Western Galilee, Kobi Mandel, said a fireman saw a man running away with a torch in his hand, but could not catch him.

Meanwhile, the inquiry committee set up to investigate the cause and handling of the fires that ravaged large tracts of Mt. Carmel and other parts of the country has started its work. Members of the committee yesterday inspected Moshav Nir Etzion and the artists' village of Ein Hod.

The five-member committee of firefighting experts was originally appointed by Interior Minister Eli Suissa to examine the circumstances of the blaze that swept parts of Haifa's Danya district early Sunday. The parameters were later broadened to include the fires around Nir Etzion and Ein Hod, as well as the big blazes in the Jerusalem area and Wadi Ara.

Ha'amakim police yesterday announced that three more people had been arrested on suspicion of

deliberately starting fires in the Wadi Ara region in the past few days. The latest arrests bring to 11 the number of arson suspects arrested.

The Afula Magistrate's Court yesterday extended the remand of three suspects from Wadi Ara arrested yesterday. One is aged 24, one 19, and the other 15.

Haifa police have reportedly found no evidence of arson in Sunday's fire in the Danya district, despite the discovery by wardens of the Nature Protection and National Parks Authority of a home-made torch near the scene of the blaze.

Police said it is highly unlikely that the torch was linked to the fire, because it was found some distance from where the blaze broke out and was not even burned. They said that all the evidence so far regarding the cause of the fires on Mt. Carmel points to negligence and not arson.

Meanwhile, a new Jewish National Fund plan would improve the way forest fires are fought by setting up a unit of fire spotters. Developed by JNF chairman Shlomo Gravit, the plan would entail using a satellite to help spot forest fires, provide a financial award to any Israeli company that develops an effective fire-alert system, train volunteers to patrol forests, and educate the public on preventing and fighting forest fires.

JNF spokesman Moshe Pearl said this week's fires, which destroyed an estimated 9,000 dunams (2,250 acres) of forest

across the country, proved the current watchtower system used to spot forest fires is not fast enough.

"We realize that if somebody wants to set a fire, it's not difficult," said Pearl. "There is no doubt we need much more powerful tools so we don't have to fight fires like we did the last few days."

"Immediately after a fire starts, we have to know about it. The fire departments do an excellent job in the cities, but the fire trucks are not 4 by 4 so they have trouble getting to the forest. Our major conclusion is that we need to know faster."

Pearl said the forest protection unit would be made up mainly of people from kibbutzim, villages, and farms near forests.

The JNF expects the government to help fund the plan as well as replant the forests.

"The first steps in the next few weeks will cost us NIS 20 million," said Pearl. "We need money for taking burning trees out of the forests, replanting. The whole replanting will take 4-5 years. We will have to have the assistance of the government. We are sure they will be with us."

In Tel Aviv, the Organization of Professional Firefighters said it doesn't have the necessary tools and resources to properly fight fires. The Finance Ministry has not provided the money for additional resources or to open new fire stations to reduce travel time to fires, the organization added.

"We asked to have the same

resources that other Western countries have, but we were ignored," said organization director Rahamin Tashara. "They didn't listen to what we had to say and that's why in some places there's one firefighter on guard. The whole world has one firefighter for every 1,000 citizens and here it's one for every 5,000 citizens."

The OPF accused political leaders of spending years appointing commissions and conducting investigations which have become archival material instead of developing a coordinated fire-fighting system. The organization added that, while it wants to help create a better system, it would fight any attempt to slash salaries and benefits.

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The National Federation of Israeli Journalists yesterday demanded of the State Attorney's Office speed up its investigation of Tel Aviv Journalists Association director Razi Guterman "so that the truth can come out." The police this week recommended pressing charges against Guterman, who is suspected of embezzling more than NIS 1 million from the association.

Guterman denied the allegations and said they were part of a character assassination conducted by a "certain newspaper." He accused people he would not name of plotting against him and framing him, as part of power struggles within

the association.

"I stress that all my salary terms were approved and legally paid in each of the 11 years of my office in the association. All these malicious accusations are probably part of power struggles in the organization and are utterly groundless," Guterman said yesterday.

He added "it would only be fair to wait for the State Attorney's Office decision, because the police recommendation isn't an indictment. I'm convinced of my innocence and that the truth will out."

The inquiry began two months ago following a complaint by association chairman Yehzekel Adiram alleging financial irregularities.

Guterman is suspected of paying half of his membership fees to the association, doubling his car insurance payment, and selling off vacation days for NIS 1,000 a day. According to the complaint, his gross monthly salary increased by 40 percent this year to NIS 36,000. Sources in the union said the motive behind the campaign against Guterman is rooted in the controversy over building a 20-story building on site of Beit Sokolow in Tel Aviv.

The sources also said that Adiram, of Yedioth Aharonot, is seeking revenge over Guterman's firing. In the past, Adiram contended with Guterman for the post of association director and lost.

TAIWAN SUPPLEMENT The Prospects for Cross-Strait Relations Vincent C. Siew, Premier, Republic of China

On November 2, 1987, the government of the Republic of China formally announced that residents of the Taiwan area would be allowed to travel to the Chinese mainland to visit relatives. Even as we took this historic first step, we already understood that this humanitarian measure would have a tremendous impact on relations across the Taiwan Strait and on the future development of China.

Before this change in policy, Taiwan and the Chinese mainland had waged a forty-year cold war of military confrontation. In the absence of exchanges and contacts, military and political antagonism between the two sides was heightened, and relations were extremely tense. Thus the move to allow residents of Taiwan to visit relatives on the mainland was significant not only because it ended the ban on personal visits between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, but also because it paved the way for cross-strait cultural and economic exchanges. More importantly, it opened a new channel for the flow of information between two societies that had previously had no contacts whatsoever.

With the growth of private-sector exchanges between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland following the decision to allow personal visits, the ROC government adopted an even more active policy in promoting relations with the mainland. In 1991, we formulated the Guidelines for National Unification, which call for the promotion of cross-strait relations in stages, with the ultimate objective of national unification under the principles of freedom, democracy and equality.

A higher international profile for the Republic of China is only natural

Some things can naturally make this world better if given the chance. Take Taiwan and its indigenous butterflies, for example. Caterpillars work hard at becoming butterflies. Once nature works its magic, they emerge in stunning splendor to take their place in the natural order of things, able to make an indispensable contribution to the ecosystem - if nothing impedes them.

The same could be said of the Republic of China on Taiwan. It has achieved a double metamorphosis: building a resource-rich and backward society into a resilient globalized economy, and peacefully completing the transition from an authoritarian past to full democracy. The ROC's market economy and political democracy that have been accomplished in just a few decades now foster a synergy of transparency and accountability. These strengths have sustained Taiwan through Asia's recent economic difficulties.

Having achieved these two remarkable transformations, the people of Taiwan naturally want their country to take its place in the international order so it can contribute directly to world prosperity and peace. Admitting their country to the WTO, UN and WHO can only help to make this world a better place - naturally.

able prosperity. That same year, we formally declared an end to the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion, pragmatically acknowledging the reality that Taiwan and the mainland are governed by two separate political entities. These actions faithfully reflect the ROC government's policy of pursuing peaceful, stable and constructive relations across the Taiwan Strait. Indeed, this policy has been realized in our efforts to promote cross-strait exchanges and our active pursuit of communication and dialogue with the mainland.

In the years since cross-strait exchanges formally commenced, the people of Taiwan and the Chinese mainland have taken an average of 1.5 million trips a year to each other's shores. There can be no doubt that such frequent exchanges have had a considerable impact on the Chinese mainland. Personal contacts between people on both sides have opened a flow of information and concepts, and have enabled the people on the mainland to see with their own eyes the democracy, pluralism, openness and prosperity enjoyed in Taiwan society. At the same time, cross-strait exchanges have led to the quiet introduction of new values into the rigid institutions on the Chinese mainland.

Today the international community has opted for a policy of engagement with the Chinese mainland. The nations of the world hope to promote the transformation of mainland institutions and lead Peking to adopt mainstream global values. It is hoped that in this way, the Chinese mainland will be able to play an active and responsible role within the international community. Over the past 11 years, the Republic of China has, in its own way, been working quietly to spread the word of Taiwan's experience with political and economic reform to Chinese soil. While the world endeavors to accelerate Peking's shift towards modernization, the ROC can join in to contribute in an even more active and effective manner, seeking the greatest benefit for all Chinese people and laying a solid foundation for peace, security and prosperity in East Asia.

Cross-strait competition should not be based on diplomatic or military antagonism; rather, it should be a contest of systems. Fifty years of hard work by the Republic of China on Taiwan has achieved political democracy, economic prosperity and social pluralism - what has come to be known as the "Taiwan experience." And it is this experience that stands as our greatest advantage in the competition between our institutions and those on the mainland. We are confident that, in this contest, the Chinese people will emerge as the ultimate beneficiaries.

The ROC deserves greater support and recognition from the international community. Not only are our democratic achievements and economic strength worthy of respect, but our efforts and accomplishments in setting up a model for the modernization of China also merit universal acknowledgment. More importantly, the ROC is determined to cooperate with the vast majority of the world's nations in striving to establish and uphold the values of democracy and freedom.

As Asia struggles to overcome financial adversity, Taiwan's economic resilience and high-tech expertise provide a valuable guide in spurring renewed regional growth and prosperity. In a few short years, the Republic of China on Taiwan has become a major player in global markets for cutting-edge technology products. It is first worldwide in the production of notebook computers and such computer accessories as scanners, modems and mouse equipment. And all this has been achieved without undue reliance on short-term international debt.

The key to Taiwan's success is the framework of market freedom within which its entrepreneurs can be highly innovative. Small- and medium-sized businesses comprise most of the ROC's industrial sector, competing intensely for investment capital in Taiwan's domestic money markets. Thus the market mechanism, not government planners, backs the best business ideas in Taiwan.

These strengths have helped offset the worst effects of Asia's financial crisis on Taiwan, making it a strong "node" in the Asia-Pacific regional economic network. Asia retains its promise as a major engine of global economic growth in the 21st century. Taiwan is helping to keep Asia connected to the future.

Communicated by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Tel Aviv

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Porat: Bar Israelis from Jericho casino

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Knesset Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat has embarked on a campaign to prevent Israelis from going to the newly opened Oasis Casino near Jericho.

Porat, of the National Religious Party, asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein on Wednesday whether it is illegal for Israelis to gamble there or whether it is necessary to introduce new legislation. Rubinstein will look into the question, the Justice Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Casinos are illegal in Israel, although a number of vessels with gambling facilities aboard dock in Eilat and take passengers out of Israeli waters to gamble.

Rubinstein was approached by the Jericho casino's entrepreneurs for his legal opinion concerning possible offenses committed by Israelis at the facility, which is in Palestinian territory. He told them such Israelis would be subject to Israeli law and that any offense committed would have to be weighed on its individual merits.

Porat said yesterday he is determined to use legislation to stop Israelis from entering the Palestinian Authority to gamble, since "this is a curse, an addiction which can ruin their lives."

He said he had heard of numerous cases where people lost their entire fortunes through gambling.

and had even encountered people who were such inveterate gamblers that they gambled away their cars during a stint on reserve duty. "Gambling is a serious form of addiction," he said, "like drugs."

Meanwhile, the state-run lottery, Mifal Hapayis, has drawn up the blueprints for opening a casino in

this country, Pays head Ya'acov Bardugo told Israel Radio yesterday.

"Israel could have a casino within a year," Bardugo said, "and the money which Israelis spend abroad on gambling could go instead to worthy causes in this country."

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DRIVE CAREFULLY

Hizbullah shells Western Galilee; no one injured

By DAVID RUDGE

At least two artillery shells fired by Hizbullah gunmen exploded in the orchards of a Western Galilee moshav early yesterday, in a flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Several other shells, apparently 122 millimeter caliber, exploded in the western sector of the security zone, just north of the border.

There were no casualties, nor any serious damage as a result of the long-range attack, which took local residents as well as Northern Command by surprise.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the incident, saying it had fired at an IDF position on the international border in the western sector in retaliation for earlier shelling by IDF and South Lebanon Army gunners which had set fire to farmers' fields north of the security zone.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said that the IDF responded immediately to the shelling. "I would like to believe that living patterns in the north will continue as usual and, along with this, the IDF will continue to fight every day and every hour in

southern Lebanon to enable a regular and secure life-style in the North," Itim quoted him as saying.

In a similar attack on Wednesday, Hizbullah gunmen fired several rounds, apparently mortars, at an IDF stronghold on the border in Upper Galilee, opposite Kibbutz Manara.

On that occasion, a round exploded alongside a position manned by a paratrooper who was moderately wounded, and caused minor damage to the post. Security sources said the fact that the soldier was wearing his helmet and flak jacket saved his life.

A statement issued by Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, said it had deliberately targeted the IDF border positions on both occasions.

The statement yesterday said the attack on the border post was in retaliation for the use by "the enemy" of internationally banned weapons, including phosphorus rounds, that had set fire to fields and hampered harvesting.

Hizbullah vowed in its statement to "protect the security and interests" of Lebanese villagers and warned Israel against using such shells. No mention was made in

the statement about the shells which exploded in Western Galilee.

Similar wording was used in the statement following the attack on the Upper Galilee border outpost on Wednesday. The organization said it had used the "appropriate weapons" against the outpost in retaliation for IDF shelling which caused fires to break out north of the security zone and in response to later shelling which hampered efforts to extinguish the fires.

Lebanese analysts said it appeared that Hizbullah was putting into practice slogans used in the past by senior Israeli government officials and IDF commanders that "if it is not quiet on our side of the border it won't be quiet on the other side."

Originally it was reported that several Katyusha rockets had been fired towards the border in western Galilee from the area of Yatar village, north of the security zone in the western sector.

The IDF spokesman later issued a statement saying an examination by Northern Command had revealed that they were shells, not rockets or mortar rounds.

Hizbullah is known to have

some artillery, including recoilless rifles. But it has used this sparingly and usually in long-range attacks on IDF and South Lebanon Army outposts in the security zone. Security sources said it was very unusual for Hizbullah to use this kind of artillery for firing at the border.

Such weapons have also been used in suppression fire during attempted ground assaults, as well as to cover the tracks of squads which have infiltrated the zone to carry out roadside bomb attacks.

Hizbullah officials have stated on several occasions that the organization has acquired more sophisticated weapons, although this was taken to mean that it might possess long-range Katyusha rockets.

The incident broke the peace and quiet that has reigned along the northern border since Hizbullah Katyusha bombardments against Kiryat Shmona and other parts of the Galilee in August.

The attacks on that occasion followed the wounding of several Lebanese civilians by SLA shelling and the killing of an Amal leader in an IAF helicopter strike.



New Zambian ambassador

President Ezer Weizman shares a toast with new Zambian Ambassador Wendy Warapembe Sinkala, who formally presented her credentials yesterday.

(Isaac Harari)

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Arad's brother declares:

Search for Ron Arad a failure

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Twelve years after his brother's fighter-bomber was downed over Sidon and he was captured by Amal militiamen, Chen Arad has called Israel's efforts to bring home missing IAF navigator Ron Arad a failure. Speaking at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday marking a dozen years of his brother's captivity, Chen Arad said his family and friends are committed to bringing Ron Arad home. But he did not hide his frustration over the fact that today his older brother is marking his 4,382 day as a prisoner.

Efforts by the IDF and defense establishment to track down Ron Arad are "the

greatest intelligence failure of the State of Israel," Arad said. However, he added, if his brother is no longer alive, then the efforts to return him should be abandoned. "We're not chasing after bones," he said.

But he stressed that the country's political and defense leadership believe that Ron Arad is still alive.

"They should start working already," Arad urged. "If someone thinks that Ron is alive, they shouldn't be sleeping at night."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has persistently sought information on Ron Arad and raised the matter with dignitaries he meets. During his recent visit to China, Mordechai asked President Jiang Zemin to use his contacts with Iran to get informa-

tion about Arad.

Cpt. Arad, who has since been promoted to lieutenant-colonel, ejected from his disabled jet on October 16, 1986 while on a bombing mission in southern Lebanon. Both he and the pilot ejected safely and the pilot was rescued, but Arad was captured by the then security chief of the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal militia, Mustafa Dirani.

A few months later Dirani broke away from Amal and formed his own group, but was kidnapped as a bargaining chip to win Arad's freedom. Israeli officials believe that Arad was then abducted by members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and that he is being held by Iran.

The Hebrew date of his capture will be marked this coming Tuesday. To mark the 12th anniversary of his capture, the Arad family and the Free Ron Arad Association will be circulating a petition to Iran seeking his release.

The petition is to be delivered by a European country to Iranian President Mohammed Khatami. People are invited to sign the petition on the Free Ron Arad Internet site and it is expected that tens of thousands around the world will do so.

"One word by Khatami will bring about Ron's release," Chen Arad said.

The Arad site, which also appears in Farsi and Arabic, can be found at <http://www.ron-arad.org.il>

Army reshuffle complete

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Veteran paratrooper officer Brig.-Gen. Doron Almog was made a senior field commander and promoted to the rank of major-general yesterday.

The promotion of Almog, who leaves the post of director of doctrine and training, winds up the reorganization of Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz's General Staff.

Almog, 47, is a relatively unknown officer who has spent most of his career in combat positions after joining the paratroops following the Six Day War. He participated in a number of daring raids, including the capture of Shadwan Island in the Red Sea. He was a company commander during the Yom Kippur War, in which his brother, Eran, was killed in a tank battle.

Almog later commanded the paratroop force during its battles in the 1982 Lebanon War, from its landing from the sea north of Sidon to the capture of Beirut.

Marked for a senior position, Almog later transferred to the Armored Corps, where he commanded a division. This decade saw him as chief paratroop and infantry officer and later commander of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip.



The blazing light

Auschwitz survivor Sam Tofer of Belgium yesterday views the opening of 'Under the Blazing Light,' an exhibit at Yad Vashem which pays tribute to immigrant survivors and their contribution to the country.

(Isaac Harari)

Jewish educators hope to reach 'lost generation'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Some Israeli youngsters in state schools do not know which Hebrew month Pessah falls in, and believe Hanukkah has a Hol Hamoed, according to research presented this week at the founding session of the Israeli Association for Research in Jewish Education.

The two-day conference at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies brought together many of the nation's leading Jewish educators, from all streams of Judaism.

Dr. Brenda Baron, assistant dean of the institute and chair of the conference, said that the matter of the "lost generation" of Israelis growing up without knowledge of their heritage needs to be addressed more vigorously.

"The question has come up often in the past 50 years, so now we decided that from an academic point of view, we should deal with the matter of Jewish education...we want a professional organization that we hope will have an impact on the field."

Baron said that research pre-

sented showed that some Israeli pupils did not know that Megillat Eichah is read on Tisha Be'Av, and ask if you can ride a bus on the intermediary days of Sukkot.

"They don't have any language in common with the Jewish tradition," Baron said. "The question is how you develop a language with such people."

The answer lies in having teachers who love the Jewish tradition, gaining the involvement of parents, and approaching the Bible "as something that deals with questions of values and appeals to all of us," Baron said.

Health Ministry official to seek age checks before surgery

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry official in charge of hospitals and medical care will recommend that surgeons be required to check the identity cards of patients for their age before performing elective surgery on them.

The measure is aimed especially at young patients who seek surgery without parental permission.

Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich, head of the ministry's medical branch, was reacting to a suggestion that ID cards be examined before a surgeon agrees to perform an operation. "I think it's a good idea that isn't any trouble and doesn't cost anything," he told *The Jerusalem Post*. If his superiors approve it, he will issue such a rule to all surgeons.

Recent press reports referred to the case of a 15-year-old girl who underwent breast-enlargement surgery at the Herzliya Medical Center two years ago, after writing in hospital forms that she was 19-and-a-half years old.

The HMC plastic surgeon, Dr. Amir Zelikovsky, performed the operation on the girl, who is now 17, without first getting a parent's permission or checking her age.

Hospital Chairman Dr. Aubrey Joffe claimed the patient "presented herself as a woman of nineteen-and-a-half. She signed admission forms stating that she was born in March 1977. She clearly misled and lied to us."

Although doctors may not operate on patients who are minors without parental permission, there is no law requiring them to check identity cards for their age.

The National Council for the Child (NCC) represented the teenager when she filed a complaint with the police against the hospital and a middle-aged senior tax official who financed her \$20,000 operation.

He was her boyfriend and had recommended that she undergo the operation, but when she broke up with him recently, he sued her for the money, plus NIS 10,000 in interest and linkage. Because of this, and because of "pains" she felt in her chest, she turned to the NCC.

Although Kadman said he faxed a letter about the incident to Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash on October 7, demanding that he investigate the case for medical negligence, Barabash said yesterday that he "had not received it."

AIDS activist charged NIS 900 VAT for donated condoms

By JUDY SIEGEL

Customs officials at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday confiscated 2,500 condoms from a suitcase carried by a woman from the Israel AIDS Task Force (IATF). The officials demanded that she pay NIS 900 in VAT and another NIS 900 in fines for bringing them through the "green" track for incoming passengers who have nothing to declare.

The condoms had been donated to the IATF by a supporter in New York who wanted to help the AIDS activists promote "safe sex" on World AIDS Day, December 1. They were to be distributed to young people as a reminder that

unprotected sex can lead to HIV infection.

IATF chairman Romney Hassman said it was a scandal that the customs should levy taxes on such a donation. "Not only does the state, through the Health Ministry, stop giving financial support to the IATF, but then it makes our existing activities more difficult by demanding its 'pound of flesh.' The condoms were given as a donation, and the state wants to profit from it."

Idit Lev, the Customs Authority spokeswoman, said that according to the law, VAT must be paid even on donations of medical equipment from abroad. "The IATF must bring the condoms to the

Israel Standards Institution to make sure they meet state standards. To free the shipment, they must then pay NIS 900 in VAT, but we will forgive the fines for not declaring the condoms."

Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, head of the Health Ministry's steering committee on AIDS, said he had not been informed of the problem by the IATF. "If they complain, I'd be glad to send a letter to customs." Regarding the halt in financial support to the task force, which last year amounted to about NIS 50,000, Ben-Yishai said it is a good group of volunteers, but the general budgetary crisis has cut support for all types of organiza-

NEWS

in brief

Manbar appeals to Supreme Court

Lawyers for Nahum Manbar yesterday filed an appeal with the Supreme Court. After a much publicized trial behind closed doors, Manbar was found guilty by Tel Aviv District Court on July 16 of passing information that could harm national security to the enemy. He was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment.

Later, one of Manbar's lawyers, Amnon Zichroni, alleged that the presiding judge, Amnon Strashnov, had had an improper relationship with Pinat Yamai, a lawyer originally hired by Zichroni to help with the case and a former trainee in Strashnov's office.

In the appeal lodged yesterday, his lawyers said that Manbar had not had a fair trial and that they would like his conviction and sentence overturned. *Batsheva Tsur*

Netanya school strike settled

Pupils in Netanya schools returned to classes yesterday after a late-night meeting between Mendy Weiss, who holds the education portfolio in the municipality, and Parents Association officials yielded an agreement to halt the strike.

Local Parents Association head Avi Metzger released a statement after the meeting saying the decision was an outgrowth of the parents' meeting with Education Minister Yitzhak Levy Tuesday night. He added that the parents would look into taking legal action if the city does not meet its commitment to transfer about NIS 5 million received from government ministries earmarked for education, and used for other purposes. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Zissmann: Students' tuition gripes justified

The university students' demands to reduce tuition are justified, Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann said yesterday. He said he is demanding that the Education Ministry and Treasury not harm higher education, and wants budgets and grants for higher education increased.

"Higher education should not be turned into education which is just for the privileged classes," he said, adding he would use legislation to change the situation if necessary. *Itim*

Investigation opens into decapitated baby

A Health Ministry committee yesterday began investigating the death of a baby boy decapitated during birth at Sieff Hospital in Safed.

This was made possible after the police completed their investigation of the tragedy, following a complaint from the Beduin parents of the infant. *Judy Siegel*

'Bible Code' author: Suit totally false

Michael Drosnin, author of international best-seller *The Bible Code*, says the \$18 million lawsuit filed against him and his publisher by an Israeli firm is "totally false."

About a month ago, Torah Soft Ltd. filed suit in the Supreme Court of the State of New York against Drosnin and Simon & Schuster for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and associated charges.

Dr. Yohanan Spielberg, Torah Soft's main shareholder, said Drosnin breached a verbal contract when Torah Soft's contact information was not published in *The Bible Code* prominently and that Spielberg's computer program was not credited in the book.

"But Drosnin said there is nothing to these claims. 'I never agreed to promote, credit, or mention his computer program in my book,' he said in a statement. 'We are confident this lawsuit will be dismissed.' *Shi Davidi*

Avner Netanyahu gets lost near kindergarten

Avner, the four-year-old son of Prime Minister Binyamin and Sara Netanyahu, left his kindergarten in Jerusalem by himself on Tuesday without anyone noticing.

For nearly half an hour, Avner wandered around the street and nearby parking lot, calling out the name of his driver. Three teenagers heard his calls and asked him his father's name. "Bibi," said Avner.

Netanyahu was notified of Avner's disappearance and took a break from a cabinet meeting. Soon after, Sara Netanyahu reached the parking lot and found her son talking to his rescuers. "I wanted to go home," Avner explained. *AP*

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Heal thyself

Is there any reason why Amnesty International should not criticize the US for abuses of human rights? Dam right there is, boy! The US, "leader of the free world," lectures other countries on what is right and wrong. A congregation should hearken to the preacher, not answer back.

Furthermore, Amnesty, as a Nobel Laureate organization, should not waste its time chiding democracies for lapses of behavior by rogue cops, crooked mayors, or cussed citizens, when there is so much institutionalized and state-sanctioned horror throughout the Third World and in what remains of the Communist world.

Dang it all, America and Amnesty are on the same side on this one. Right? Wrong. Nothing produces more complacency in democracies than those tired old chestnuts — the rogue cop and the wild weed, those "aberrations" that crack many an innocent skull (and may even murder a prime minister).

Just an anecdote
Amnesty, after a devastating year-long investigation, has just shone a glaring light on some of the violence, abuse, and injustice that lurk in dark corners of land of the free and the home of the brave.

Everyone knows the huge output of brutality, horror, murder, discrimination, and infantile self-righteousness that has poured from American cinema and television studios. Does the sheer volume of this crass-culture not say something fundamental about some aspect of the society? Through these media, and since the 1920s, all the world has become familiar with many unflattering icons of America, the dark side of Big Macs, free speech, apple pie, and Microsoft. These have included crooked cops, bent politicians, Southern rednecks, Mafia trade unions, prison guards as brutal as inmates, shoot-em-up generals, Ku Klux Klan, cycles of racist hatred.

As William Raspberry wrote in *The Washington Post* this week, these things — the stuff of the Amnesty report on human rights violations — "Americans see as symptomatic when they happen in the Third World, but anecdotal when they happen in America." There is one thing Americans can be mightily proud of and mightily grateful for — the historically amazing group of founding fathers who framed the US Constitution and its system of checks and balances.

Cyber punk
If these did not exist, or should ever be eroded, Amnesty's America has enough subterranean trends to be a very frightening fascist state — the sort its imagination turns up in its own futuristic cyber-punk movies. The Amnesty report was shrugged off in the US, as its reports mostly are everywhere in these disillusioned days. In American eyes, Amnesty is dismissible on several counts — it is non-American, it considers the

death penalty a human rights violation on a par with summary execution, and it packs its reports with "rogue-cop anecdotes" from the democracies to prove to the Third World it isn't a bunch of white-folk London liberals.

Americans argue that the enthusiasm of Texas for executing condemned felons proves only that Texas is certainly tough in applying the law, not that it is an extra-judicial lynch state. But no one reads the reports they dismiss so glibly. The 37 people executed in Texas in 1997 included Terry Washington, who had a mental age of seven — a fact unknown to the jury that sentenced him.

Human rights violation! Another was Irineo Montoya, a Mexican national. After lengthy police interrogation, he signed a four-page confession in English, a language he could neither read, write, nor understand. He was not allowed a lawyer nor anyone from the Mexican consulate during questioning — a violation of American and international law.

Amnesty said that last year more than 60 foreign nationals condemned to death were effectively denied access to consular assistance — a right the US rigorously and rightly demands for its citizens arrested overseas under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Holler than who?
One of the most shocking breaches of human rights in the US is meted out to immigrant asylum seekers. They are regularly treated as criminals and thrown in jail with real criminals (unless they are fashionable dissidents from China). General prison abuses are rife, brutal, and covered up, right across the country. In some states, women prisoners are shackled while giving birth.

As for setting an example to the nations it castigates for not signing or ratifying international treaties — the US and Somalia are the only two states still refusing to ratify the international treaty protecting children's rights. It has not signed a treaty on women's rights, and several years ago infamously opted out of accepting judgments from the International Court in the Hague for two years.

In a world awash with examples of how vile human nature can be when it is not being transcendental, why should anyone believe Americans are any better, just because they say they are? This nation was built on exterminating the natives and on importing millions of slaves from Africa, just as much as on the fine words and fine institutions of the founding fathers. Japanese Americans were vengefully incarcerated after Pearl Harbor. Sen. Joseph McCarthy destroyed American careers in a Salem-like witch-hunt conducted from the hallowed chambers of Congress, no less.

Amnesty's report is nothing more than a timely reminder that the world's human rights physician should periodically heal its own ills before prescribing others.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

NATO chief warns Milosevic over compliance with Kosovo demands

BELGRADE (Reuters) — NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said he warned Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday that he was "far from meeting" compliance with the international community's demands in Kosovo. Solana also told Yugoslavia it would be punished if it interfered with NATO aircraft overflying Kosovo to verify that Milosevic has ended his crackdown on the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo.

NATO's top brass flew to Yugoslavia yesterday to try to persuade Milosevic to pull his forces out of Kosovo, as intelligence reports showed Serbian troops and police still in place.

In Brussels, a NATO official said the Western alliance still sees no evidence of a genuine, substantial withdrawal of troops. The pullout is demanded by the West to make it safe for many thousands of ethnic Albanian civilians now hiding in Kosovo's hills and forests to return to their homes before winter sets in.

The assessment contrasted with a rosier view given by the US State Department on Wednesday, which said access to refugees is excellent and police were withdrawing.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana flew to Belgrade with the Western military alliance's top generals, who quickly signed an agreement with the Yugoslav Army permitting unarmed NATO surveillance flights over Kosovo.

Solana said there were indeed a few good signs, but not nearly enough to satisfy the allies. "The information we have at this very moment, this morning, is that compliance is not a reality," Solana told reporters in Brussels.

NATO would not relax its threat to launch air strikes against Yugoslav targets, which could start after 05:00 GMT tomorrow unless there is incontrovertible evidence that compliance was guaranteed.

In Washington yesterday, the White House said Milosevic is still not in compliance with



A Serb policeman flashes a victory salute as he rides on a bus withdrawing along the Pec-Pristina road yesterday. (AP)

Western demands. "Obviously there's a range of things that need to be done to come into compliance," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

That message would be delivered by Solana, who was accompanied by NATO's Supreme Commander, US General Wesley Clark, and General Klaus Naumann, chairman of NATO's military committee.

Clark will be seeking cast-iron assurances that there will be no threat to NATO aircraft or 2,000 unarmed members of a verification mission on the ground.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said the Contact Group would seek a new UN Security Council resolution endorsing the deal worked out in Belgrade between the Yugoslav president and US envoy Richard Holbrooke.

Britain and Russia, two of the six major powers coordinating policy on Yugoslavia, submitted draft resolutions to a meeting of the group's representatives in Paris.

Vedrine said Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, current head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), would fly to Belgrade today to sign the agreement, which has so far averted air attacks on Yugoslavia. Geremek said he would ask NATO for armed forces to protect the OSCE verification teams.

The accord allows observers to verify compliance with demands for the withdrawal of Serbian forces and return home of about 250,000 ethnic Albanian refugees. It also foresees wide powers of autonomy for the majority Albanian region.

Russia, an outspoken critic of Western policy in the Balkans and an opponent of using force against Milosevic, said it is ready to take part in air surveillance.

In Geneva, the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army accused some US officials of lying over what it said was continuing Serb bombardment of villages and said the peace deal was not working.

In contrast to the State Department's upbeat assessment on Wednesday, Swiss-based KLA spokesman Bardhyl Mahmuti said Serb forces had reinforced positions in Kosovo and shelled a dozen villages overnight.

White House, Republicans set to finish budget deal

By VICKI ALLEN

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — With an agreement on a \$500 billion spending bill tantalizingly close, White House and congressional negotiators met again yesterday to try to clinch the deal needed to keep much of the government running.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said the talks to complete the bill — expected to be the last legislative Congress passes this year — were "in the very final phases."

"In all, I think these negotiations have wound up in a positive way," the Mississippi Republican told reporters.

Republican leaders this week have been putting a positive face on the bill, which must be voted on by the House and Senate, even though Republicans have groused that the White House had the edge in negotiations on the mammoth bill to fund about one-third of the government through next September.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia has touted the measure for boosting defence spending and fighting drugs and crime, as well as for requiring reforms of the International Monetary Fund in exchange for \$18 billion to replenish its lending resources.

Representative John Boehner of Ohio, House Republican conference chairman, said that "by and large, we're in pretty good shape" to pass the spending package.

White House officials have said they were generally pleased by how the talks were progressing. But congressional Democrats who have been on the fringes of the negotiations reacted cautiously, saying they wanted to study the fine print of the measure that lawmakers and the administration have used as the year's last chance to push their pet projects.

"This bill is the biggest bill of the year," House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt said. "We will not pass this bill until we have had a chance to read it," he said of the document that is expected to run thousands of pages.

"It is bad enough that they have short-circuited the whole procedure of the Congress into this two-week hurry-up process."

But we are not going to let them run over people's right to understand what is in the bill," said Gephardt of Missouri.

The Republican-led Congress sent President Bill Clinton just six of the 13 appropriations bills that fund the government, and Clinton vetoed one of those. That pushed eight bills into the huge compromise package, which has been negotiated most intensively since the new fiscal year started on Oct. 1.

Republican leaders were hoping for House and Senate votes on the measure by tonight, when the latest of the short-term spending measures that has kept the government open for the past two weeks expires.

They have been under pressure to get a deal with the White House on the bill so members can go home to campaign for the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

But Democrats have signalled they are in no hurry to act on the measure, which they have used as a platform for their campaign issue of improving education through smaller class sizes.

Some of the more hotly debated measures in the bill include: a \$1.1 billion hike in education spending to hire more teachers; nearly \$20 billion in emergency spending divided between defence and national security programs and other measures such as \$6 billion in relief to farmers and readying government computers for the year 2000.

requiring federal employees' health plans to cover prescription contraceptives, with exceptions for religious-based plans; a compromise to postpone until April a partisan dispute over the White House's plans for conducting the year 2000 census, which determines how congressional districts are drawn.

Israeli-American fashion designer gets standing ovation in Paris

PARIS (Reuters) — The standing ovation went on and on at Guy Laroche yesterday, leaving no doubt that Israeli-American designer Alber Elbaz is one of fashion's great new talents.

As he bid an emotional farewell to the dusty old house, momentarily taking it to the summit of chic and elegance, spontaneous bursts of applause broke out across the Louvre museum theatre.

Plucked out of obscurity two years ago by Guy Laroche, Elbaz now goes on to the ambitious task of designing Yves Saint Laurent's ready-to-wear. Saint Laurent will continue producing his couture collection.

But yesterday, Elbaz could still express himself freely, with understatement and modern romanticism: Full skirts of the finest grey wool swept the floor, topped by matching sleeveless tops, V necks plunging deeply between the breasts.

Sometimes the skirts, or skirt trousers, came with lovely little bracelet-sleeved jackets or pearly cotton shirts.

Here there was a flash of bright color as a model strode out in a vermilion taffeta coat with a matching dress, there, a canary yellow organza cocktail dress pleated on the bias.

The evening wear was just as quiet and graceful, whether it came as slip dresses dripping with deep plum or orange sequins, majestic long-skirted suits in silver grey or bordeaux taffeta, or men's suiting for skinny columns.

"It was gracious, moving, modern



Israeli-American designer Alber Elbaz responds to an ovation yesterday after the presentation of Guy Laroche's 1999 spring/summer ready to wear collection. (AP)

and elegant. It's as if he were liberated," said Maria Luisa, owner of a chain of up-market shops bearing her name in several European capitals.

"At the same time it's sad. At Guy Laroche he could build something personal. I wish him the best of luck because he's going on to something very heavy and difficult," she added.

Even the Americans caught on. "I found it extremely chic, very refined and beautifully cut. I loved the simplicity of it," said Joseph Boitano of Bergdorf Goodman.

But the nagging question of whether Elbaz's modern vision would have free rein at Saint Laurent was on everyone's mind.

Killer Typhoon Zeb menaces Taiwan

By JEFFREY PARKER

TAIPEI (Reuters) — Typhoon Zeb pounded Taiwan with slashing rain yesterday after killing dozens of people in the Philippines, but forecasters said the slow-moving storm had yet to make its full fury felt.

Despite losing some intensity while rumbling over the main Philippine island of Luzon, Zeb is several times bigger than Taiwan and is expected to envelop the island entirely sometime today.

Meteorologists said Zeb already blazed for 45 deaths in the Philippines and up to five in Taiwan — is big enough and strong enough seriously to threaten life and industry, despite being downgraded to a medium typhoon from a strong one.

Officials ordered all municipal markets, government offices, and schools in the capital closed

today, a move expected to be copied across the island.

"This is a powerful typhoon," a Central Weather Bureau forecast said as Zeb's eye, still 120 km southeast of Taiwan, inched towards the island at just 15 kph. The driving rain and high winds paralyzed sea, land, and air traffic across the island, cutting electrical power to an estimated 21,600 homes.

Two people were reported dead in Taiwan, including a woman swept off a pier on Wednesday. Three fishermen were missing and feared dead.

Zeb's eye is on a course to skirt Taiwan's scenic and less developed eastern shore, where landslides have already closed some roads and halted the Hualien-Taipei railway.

Most tourists fled but some still were staying put. "Most of those who have stayed

are foreigners," said a clerk at Caesar Park Hotel-Kenting, near Taiwan's southern tip. "Some of them it seems are foreign dare-devils who've come just to feel the power of a typhoon."

Relief agencies reported 43 dead so far, including more than 20 in landslides in the rugged northern provinces of Benguet, Mountain, Ifugao, Cagayan, and the mountain resort of Baguio. A South Korean was among the dead.

The collapse of a dam being built in Benguet province killed 14 people, several of them buried alive, the Red Cross said. Zeb wrecked hundreds of flimsily built homes in the North and forced thousands to flee to evacuation centers, officials said.

At 12:20 GMT, Zeb was packing average wind speeds of 162 kph and maximum sustained winds of 198 kph.

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October 16, 1998 in PE

Shiva at 83 Westview Drive,
Port Elizabeth 6001
Tel. 013-2741-334328

Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his:

Wife: Salomé
Children and grandchildren:
Michael, Denise, Roi and Danit
Hilton (Zvi), Ariel and Adam

On the fortieth anniversary of the death of
our dear mother and grandmother

MALKA (Maria) LASZLO
widow of the late journalist
Ernest Zvi Laszlo

we will visit her grave at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem,
on Sunday, October 18, 1998, at 2:30 p.m.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing
of our dear father

Chazan LEIB RASKIN

Chazan in Lodz, the United States and Canada

Buried at Har Hamenuhot on Thursday,
October 15, 1998 (25 Tishrei 5759)

Mourning by Moshe and Chana Goldkorn
Grandchildren
and great grandchildren

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The next step

The expansive Wye Plantation estate on the Maryland shore was chosen for the summit, because it is not Camp David. The burden of the association with that presidential retreat, and with the momentous agreement reached there 20 years ago, was too great for one or both of the parties. But changing the venue from one pastoral retreat to another does not lessen the historic burden on the leaders' shoulders. Their job is not just to revive the peace process, but to recreate it.

What is needed is application of the simple formula that was among Ariel Sharon's first statements as foreign minister: the agreement should be "good for us and good for them." That agreements must be good for both sides may seem to be a self-evident truism. Yet it is a basic recognition of the legitimacy of the other party's interests that has been absent for some time from the peace process, draining it of any forward momentum.

Instead, the process has found itself in a downward spiral since the Hebron Accords 20 months ago. There is no equivalence between Israeli building on Har Homa in Jerusalem, which in any case has been quietly frozen, and the Palestinian withholding of security cooperation and refusing to engage in direct talks. The Palestinians took a jolt to the peace process and responded with a body blow. But even before this, and before the election of the Netanyahu government, the sense that the peace process was leading to peace was receding.

The tragic assassination of Yitzhak Rabin caused an immediate swelling in Israeli support for the peace process, as a wave of disgust for the politics of the assassin washed over the nation. If the Palestinians had trusted that Rabin would, in the end, negotiate a deal that essentially fulfilled their nationalist aspirations, then there was even less doubt that a post-assassination Israel led by Shimon Peres would have been willing to do so. Yet the Palestinians did not respond to the increased commitment to the peace process on Israel's part with a stepped-up effort to crackdown on terrorism. Only after four horrific suicide-bombing attacks in February and March of 1996 did Arafat begin an intensive effort against the terrorists. But by then it was too little, too late. In the 1996 elections, the citizens of Israel voted, not against the peace process, but for the party that seemed would better hold the Palestinians to their side

of the bargain.

In his first year, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu established a pattern of grudgingly implementing Oslo, while attempting to maintain his right-wing bona fides by criticizing the agreement, paying lip service to the settlement movement, and breaking ground at Har Homa. Encouraged by the storm of criticism of Netanyahu at home and abroad, the Palestinians felt free to let the brief, pre-election spurt of security cooperation fall apart and, just as devastating for the process, boycotted all direct negotiations with Israel. There was no excuse for such a boycott, especially since Israel is expected to continue negotiations despite gruesome terrorist attacks, such as the murder of Itamar Doron on Tuesday. The Palestinian boycott of direct talks ended last month in New York, with the help of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton.

Though Netanyahu arrives at Wye with a long list of requirements, the two make-or-break matters are security cooperation and completing the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant. If Arafat decides he wants agreement, he will deliver on these two, long-overdue commitments. But reaching agreement on a redeployment package alone is equivalent to a drowning man who manages to start treading water - he is saved for now, but still in grave danger of slipping back under.

As ambitious as reaching any deal may seem, Netanyahu, Clinton, and Arafat must shoot beyond the basic redeployment package. As President Clinton said yesterday at the White House, "peace is more than a process, it is in the end a destination." The stalled negotiations have obscured how far Israel has already gone toward that destination, but the facts speak for themselves: Israel has already relinquished civil authority over 95 percent of the Palestinian population, total control over seven cities, and will increase the area under total Palestinian control six-fold with the anticipated redeployment.

There is no going back, for Israel - barring Palestinian abandonment of the process through recourse to violence. Yet neither can Israel move forward without more evidence from the Palestinians that the destination of the process is peace. Fighting terror, ending incitement, and amending the Covenant are basic prerequisites; beginning final-status talks now should be the minimal immediate goal.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITH STEIN

Sir, - In your article on Edith Stein "Victim or martyr? A Jewish nun canonized" (October 9), the Dormition Abbey is mentioned and the author suggests that a certain person, who had been assigned here, might have had a hand in the refusal of the Carmel Convent in Bethlehem to give refuge to Edith Stein after the occupation of Holland by the Nazis.

We are too far removed from those events to know exactly what happened. The reason you give, that the superior of Bethlehem thought that Edith, as a brilliant doctor of philosophy, would feel badly at ease with the simple sisters, mostly Arabs of the community, comes perhaps closer to the truth.

Another more plausible reason might have been that the government of the British Mandate might have refused to give permission to a German citizen to immigrate to Palestine during those war years. Still, it is a puzzle to me why Jews are so strongly opposed to the canonization of one of their people. I can understand that they feel griev-

ed that Edith Stein accepted baptism, as I am grieved when Christians are converted to Judaism, as often happens in this country. But would I feel chagrined if such a proselyte to Judaism was to be honored by the Jewish nation, I myself belonged to a regiment that toward the end of the World War II was recruited in South Tyrol. When we refused to take the oath to Hitler, we were disbanded and sent off to the Russian front. There, in a gathering of SS officers, I was confronted with the question: "Yes, I love also the Jews, because they are the people of Jesus." It almost cost my life. (If you wish, you can read the story in *With Jesus in Jerusalem*, Corazin Publishing, Rosh Pina.)

It was the vicious reaction of Hitler to the condemnation of the deportation of Jews by the Dutch bishops that shocked Pope Pius XII and restrained him from doing the same. In hindsight, we feel he was wrong; but I lived in those days and know something of the brutality of these people.

FIGHTING FIRE

Sir, - Like so many of your readers I read with dismay about the outbreak of fires in the countryside, sadly not the first time such catastrophes have occurred. It seems pretty certain that they have been started by a mixture of evil intent in some places, while in others it has been a case of picnickers' and campers' negligence.

Certainly some new strategy must be thought out to try and protect our land.

In July of this year, my husband and I were in the province of Granada in southern Spain on a research trip. Here there is a terrain and climate very similar to

Israel, although their period of excessive temperatures is shorter than ours. Indeed, during our visit the temperature reached 46°. On our final day, we took a few hours off en route to the airport and decided to picnic in an exceptionally beautiful national park just off the motorway, a few kilometers outside the city of Granada.

After entering, we found that only the trees and grounds surrounding the highway and about half a kilometer inward were open to the public during July and August, the peak holiday months. Barriers clearly barred the way to the hinterland. Polite notices

Edith Stein was a Jew and for some time an atheist. She regained her faith in the God of Israel through Christianity. Still, she considered herself Jewish according to Halacha and a member of her people all her life. Typical of this were the words she said to her sister when the Gestapo came to take her and send them both to Auschwitz. "Rosa, let's go and die for our people." She loved her mother and always remained close to her, although her mother never would accept her conversion.

Why should many Jews resent that this believer in Jesus as her messiah is being declared a woman of extraordinary faith. That's all that canonization really means. Why would you rather have her an atheist, as one who through the Jew Jesus came to believe and love the God of Israel?

FATHER BAR-GIL PIKNER

OSB
Monk of the Dormition Abbey

Jerusalem.

informed us that because of the danger of forest fires, the areas were closed to the public during the months of excessive hot weather. Surely the time has come for Israel to take similar precautions.

True enough, such action might not stop those of evil intent, but with no public legally allowed, the arsonists would be much more noticeable if entering forbidden areas and the careless public less able to damage our beautiful land.

GLORIA MOUND

Gan Yavne.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On October 16, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that Mrs. Arnold Zweig, wife of the famous author, with her two sons, arrived in Palestine to live on Mt. Carmel. Mr. Zweig was expected here soon. They intended to settle in the country.

25 years ago: On October 16, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that an Israeli armored unit routed the remnants of the Iraqi Division fighting on the Syrian front. In Sinai bitter and bloody battles were fought to repel Egyptian attempts to advance. The Soviet Union had ferried ships and 200 plane-loads of equipment to

Syria, Egypt and Iraq during the past six days. 18 Egyptian patrol boats were sunk in the Gulf of Suez. Britain announced an arms embargo on the Middle East, but resolved to continue training Egyptians for helicopter crews.

Alexander Zvielli

OPINION



No excuses at Wye

EHUD BARAK

Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat: As you deliberate at the Wye Plantation, the enemies of peace are mobilizing at home. You must not be defeated in your mission by political naysayers or the cynical practitioners of violence. Your ability to stay the precarious course of diplomacy, compromise and responsibility will determine the future of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples: co-existence or war.

Even as you were preparing for the summit, the horrible death toll continued to climb. This week we mourned the killing of a young man in the hills of Jerusalem and the murder of a 19-year-old woman soldier at the entrance to her village in the Jordan Valley. These, and all other cowardly acts must not deter us from the path of peace to which the great majority of Israelis and Palestinians have pledged themselves. Terrorists cannot be allowed to dictate our policy. Now is the time to take courageous steps and show true leadership.

We should learn from the Irish settlement reached this year. It too was wrought after decades of hostility and the sacrifice of countless

innocent lives. When the horrendous bombing occurred in Omagh this past August, blowing apart women and children, Irish and British leaders joined hands and protected the fragile peace.

They did not succumb to calls to abandon the agreement, they did not

bullets pierce, the knives cut, regardless of party affiliation.

The only way to achieve personal security for individuals, and overall security for Israel, is to create a physical separation from the Palestinians, thereby establishing viable peace within security "red lines."

A settlement with the Palestinians is an essential step toward tackling the far-reaching dangers on our horizon

declare themselves unable to sign accords, they did not use the bloodshed as an excuse to stop striving for peace. Indeed, they gave us palpable hope: If they can make peace, so can we.

Terrorists act in desperate ways to impose their own hateful agendas on free and strong societies. We in Israel have experienced the pain of these evil endeavors at all times in our history - under both Labor and Likud governments. The deadly targets of terror are non-partisan: the

THE urgent need for peace and security goes far beyond the threat of terror. Sophisticated weapons of mass destruction are rapidly proliferating throughout our region, and nothing is more critical than the negotiated resolution of long-standing conflicts.

The spread of Islamic fundamentalism, which threatens not only the Middle East but the whole world, must be stopped. A coalition of moderate regimes committed to the pursuit of peace and the end of state-

orchestrated terror must be created. A settlement with the Palestinians is an essential step toward tackling the far-reaching dangers on our horizon.

The involvement and support of the United States in this process is vital. It is President Clinton's continued willingness to persevere that has enabled Israelis and Palestinians to come together at the Wye Plantation to confront tough issues and to make momentous decisions. But this precious commitment of time and resources by the American president and his foreign policy team cannot be expected to repeat itself indefinitely. Real and significant headway must be made.

Today, as the deliberations proceed among the quiet and serene hills of Maryland, I ask you to exploit the clarity of mind this setting offers you, to take advantage of the fresh air to refresh your thinking.

Decide together to put an end to the atmosphere of hostility and fear, to resume the mutual trust that characterized the negotiations under former prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, and to usher in an environment of progress and hope.

Anything for a photo op

MOSHE ZAK

At the end of the Camp David summit, Menachem Begin suggested to the Americans that the signing ceremony should take place during peak TV viewing hours in Israel and Egypt.

President Jimmy Carter rejected the suggestion out of hand. The ceremony would take place according to American time, so that a majority of Americans could watch it. And Carter was right from his point of view: during the week after the signing, his support in opinion polls went through the roof.

President Bill Clinton is also very interested in a photo op with Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, even though the support of his presidency has risen recently in the polls without any connection to the Middle East summit he initiated.

In fact, a photo of the signing isn't so important to him. His chief problem isn't the response of the American public, but the decision in Congress concerning impeachment.

Nevertheless, Clinton will invest much energy to ensure that the conference ends with some kind of agreement, even if it's only a half-baked one. He can't permit himself to let one side, whether Netanyahu or Arafat, point to the outcome as a failure for American diplomacy.

In Arafat's case, the American mediators assume he will be more flexible this time, because of his

need for American economic assistance. Without American aid, the Palestinian Authority can't pay its salaries.

But there is no certainty that this assumption will be realized. The Russians applied to Western Europe for aid during the expected hard winter, while at the same time warning NATO not to impose military sanctions on Yugoslavia. They saw no contradiction between the two. Arafat could disappoint the Americans in the same way.

As for Netanyahu, the American assumption is that he is very interested in returning with some kind of agreement. Both because he doesn't want a dispute with Clinton, and because he relies on polls showing that a majority of Israelis wants an agreement. But the American mediators don't take into account that Netanyahu won't necessarily be able to "sell" any agreement to the Israeli public, certainly not an accord equivalent to a slogan "Retreat now. We'll try to compensate you later."

He can't sell his own ministers on the immature suggestion, originating here and adopted by the Americans, that in return for a postponement of the permanent agreement by two or three years, Israel will agree to recognize in principle

the Palestinian right to a state. And he will find it hard to explain to the public why the agreement does not contain some of the conditions that he laid down for the implementation of a 13 percent withdrawal.

SO IT IS reasonable to assume that the American team preparing a draft agreement or declaration for Clinton, will exploit to the full constructive ambiguity in order to create the appearance of bridging the gaps between the sides.

Ambiguity is an accepted way of overcoming difficulties of formulation. But it is very doubtful it is a good way of resolving disputes.

For example, we wrongly believed the Oslo Accords guaranteed the safety of the Jewish settlements, at least until the permanent agreement. And now it emerges from an interview given by Arafat to a German newspaper that Oslo applies only to the security of residents of Israel, not to settlers. Arafat claims that the settlements are illegal and "we will not agree to foreign settlers remaining on our land and stealing our water."

It is very doubtful at this stage whether Arafat is interested in a real agreement. He certainly isn't ready for an agreement that will oblige

him to make his intentions clear. Arafat is interested in receiving another 13% of Judea and Samaria; but an agreement that will oblige him to fulfill every word of his commitments in the Hebron Agreement is another matter.

Arafat has prepared excuses for not fulfilling his previous commitments: Dismissing thousands of police will increase the number of unemployed in PA territory; convening the Palestinian National Council to annul the Palestinian Covenant is liable to play into the hands of his Hamas and Islamic Jihad opponents. And Israel is interested in his remaining in power. Nor does he want an armed struggle with the Palestinian terrorist organizations, as would happen if he keeps his agreement to disarm them.

But Dennis Ross, who drew up the protocol of the mutual commitments in the Hebron Agreement and is the moving spirit behind Wye Plantation, has heard these explanations before, and he is trying to get round them, through the use of constructive ambiguity to give Clinton the photo op he wants.

In this way, Netanyahu can return to Jerusalem with an initialed or fully signed agreement. Only later, after its details are put to the test, will we realize that it was a surrogate and not a real agreement.

From Kosovo to Wye

GERALD M. STEINBERG

The most important military victories are attained without clashes on the battlefield. When a display of force is sufficient to induce one or both sides of a conflict to settle for less than had been expected, and war is averted, this is a major accomplishment.

By this standard, the policies of America and NATO in Kosovo amount to much less than a major victory, but are still significant - if the agreements hold. In the past few days, the massive display of firepower, including the B-52 bombers on the runways and the practice bombing runs of dozens of combat aircraft, forced Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic to accept a cease-fire.

But for the thousands of Kosovars that were killed and wounded, and the hundreds of thousands who lost their homes, their livelihoods, and who fled to escape the Serbian forces, NATO's show of force came too late. This terror campaign should and could have been stopped months ago. Until the threat of a major military operation was immediate, the efforts of US special representative Richard Holbrooke were impotent. Against despots and terrorists, diplomacy without a credible military option is insufficient.

The main question now is whether (or for how long) the agreement will be honored.

American diplomats have been instrumental in gaining solid agreements on paper, but weak follow-through has often led to a return to the status quo ante. What will the political leaders of NATO do when the Serbs begin to violate the agreement, intimidating the verification force on the ground, or resuming the activities of their special forces? How quickly will they become distracted by other events?

On this score, the recent American record is mixed. In the case of Bosnia, the NATO troops on the ground and overhead have enforced the basic framework of the Dayton Accord, preventing renewed violence and terror against Sarajevo and the rest of the areas covered in the agreement.

In contrast, the absence of staying power in Iraq, and apparently in North Korea, should serve as warnings. The American failure to enforce various agreements made with Saddam Hussein over the past seven years is well known, but not unique. In 1994, North Korea was caught attempting to produce nuclear weapons. After the usual UN resolutions and diplomatic shuttles failed to bring about a change from Pyongyang, the US assembled a fleet of warships off the coast of North Korea, and

threatened to attack. Suddenly, the North Koreans agreed to replace their nuclear weapons-producing facilities with strictly civil technology that could not be used to produce weapons-grade material. However, once the threat was removed, the North Korean regime seems to have resumed its program to develop nuclear weapons.

THERE ARE a number of important lessons for the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators meeting at Wye Plantation under American auspices. First, the mutual obligations that are included in any agreements must be clearly defined. This time, and in sharp contrast to previous pacts over the past five years, the terms of actions to prevent terrorism, bans on Palestinian incitement, release of prisoners, limitations on settlement activities, etc., must be very precise and detailed. Ambiguous proposals, such as Israeli acceptance "in principle" of a Palestinian state in return for a Palestinian agreement to forgo a unilateral declaration, are guaranteed recipes for disagreement and disaster.

In addition, as in the case of the Kosovo agreement, the verification process must be specified. In last year's Hebron Agreement,

these factors were largely absent, reflecting the preference for ambiguity throughout the Oslo process. This ambiguity was a major source of conflict, as both sides claimed that the other did not deliver on its promises.

However, even with a highly detailed text, it would be a mistake to rely on Washington for the enforcement of agreements in critical areas, such as terror and security. Even when undistracted by White House sex scandals and impeachment processes, the American ability to follow through and insure the implementation of the agreements that it brokers is uneven, at best.

The US and NATO are not going to send B-52 bombers and aircraft carriers to the coast of Gaza if Yasser Arafat and other officials continue to praise suicide bombers as martyrs, or if they fail to apprehend terrorists who escape into their area of jurisdiction. Instead, Israel must insure that it can independently verify and deter potential violations.

On the basis of these guidelines, the talks outside Washington may produce a stronger agreement than achieved in Oslo, Cairo, or regarding Hebron. If they don't, and Bill Clinton's domestic difficulties lead the parties to accept an ambiguous agreement that cannot be implemented or verified, the dangers in the Middle East will grow.

سكرا من الامل

The new Germany bears watching

MARK A. HELLER

What with a new foreign minister, a summit in Washington, and a string of forest fires, it is not surprising that the country has had little attention left to spare for other developments. But at least one of these – the coming to power of a new German government – is worth watching, because it will affect the political environment in which Israel will operate in the coming months and years.

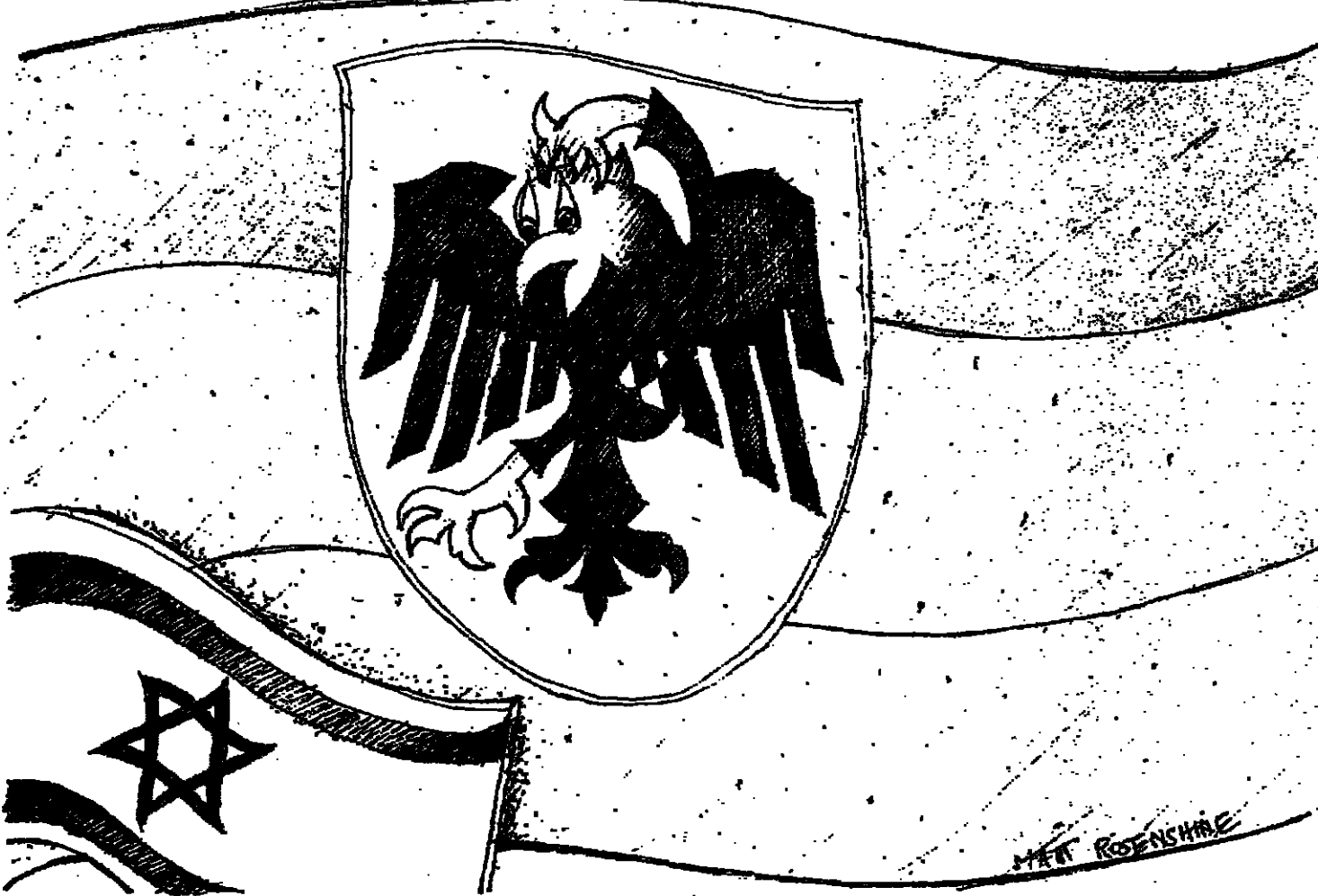
The new German government will be a coalition between the Social Democratic Party, which has not been in power since the early 1980s, and the Green Party,

which did not exist then. But each of these parties is itself a two-headed body. Gerhard Schröder, the SPD candidate who will now be chancellor, patterns himself on the "Third Way" paradigm invented by Bill Clinton and perfected by Tony Blair, and he was consciously chosen to reassure and appeal to the moderate middle of the German electorate.

But, unlike Blair, he does not control the party machinery or perhaps even command the parliamentary faction; those levers are held by Oskar Lafontaine, the party leader, who is cast in the more traditional pro-union, pro-welfare state, leftist mold that also characterized the British Labor Party before Tony Blair forced it to undergo a conversion.

Similarly, the Greens are divided between the "realists," represented by party leader Joschka Fischer, a one-time student radical who has embraced the virtues of moderation and compromise and will be foreign minister, and the "ideologues," many of whom got their political start trashing universities in the 1960s or at least protesting American cruise missiles in the 1980s, and who have aged much less gracefully.

These differences will not impinge directly and massively on German policy vis-a-vis Israel.



The new government's major priorities will be domestic economic and social affairs. The watchword in foreign affairs, already delivered in a visit by the new leadership to Washington, is "continuity." Foreign policy will focus on European issues (European Union expansion, monetary unity, etc.) and any time and energy left for "out of area" problems will be devoted, in the first instance, to problems closer to home: Russia and ex-Yugoslavia.

Still, the Middle East may be addressed, at least at the margins, in ways that could prove disconcerting to Israel. The German elections have brought to power, not only new political/ideological forces, but also a new generation that has no direct connection with the Holocaust or with Germany's post-war need for rehabilitation in the international community. For many of them, the time has come for a comprehensive normalization of German life, symbol-

ized by the phrase "the Berlin Republic." This may well include German relations with Israel.

THE POSSIBLE policy ramifications were recently explored by a newly-elected Green Party member of parliament. In his view, Europe has been unable to play a major role in the Middle East because it did not speak with a united voice. Initiatives by other major European countries – and he did not elaborate, though he may well have had in mind events like the regional tours of French President Jacques Chirac and British Foreign Minister Robin Cook – were neutralized by Germany's pro-Israel position and by the particular friendship of Helmut Kohl.

European unity will be even more necessary now to promote Middle Eastern peace and stability, because the expiration of the interim agreement will bring new dangers just when the U.S. because of a weakened president, will be

less capable of dealing with them. Thus, the burden on Germany will be to show more "even-handedness," especially since this critical period will coincide with the German presidency of the EU, a position that traditionally encourages its incumbent to demonstrate some activism.

The question is not how valid this analysis is, but how widely it is likely to be held. And it is far from certain that it will prevail.

After all, despite the political and generational changes, German-Israeli relations will continue to be "special." Besides, the convergence point of a common European policy is not self-evident; there is no full identity of French and British approaches (Robin Cook notwithstanding), and harmonization does not necessarily mean German endorsement of French or even Anglo-French views on declaratory policy, economic levers, or anything else. Finally, the entire issue of the

German and European role in the Middle East is important enough to demand the chancellor's attention, but not important enough to justify a major difference of opinion with the U.S. regardless of any residual anti-Americanism that may exist among old New Leftists.

For these reasons, German officials who deal with the region on a professional basis are probably right when they suggest that when the new German government does express itself on these issues, it will do so in a restrained manner, and that any changes will be minimal. Nevertheless, the German election does mean that the longer Israel (with only American support) cannot work out its problems with its Arab neighbors, the more persistent European offers of "help" will become.

This may not make a critical difference in the larger scheme of things, but it should set off at least one more warning light in Jerusalem.

To build a new nation

A series of experiments developed by German psychologist Dietrich Dörner casts light on the prevalent modern myth that rational planning holds the solution to all social and environmental problems.

Employing computer simulations, Dörner presents his subjects with real life problems and possible solutions. Few participants find the correct solutions. Even the most highly trained and intelligent almost invariably focus too narrowly on the specific problem at hand and fail to anticipate the system-wide effects of their cures.

Would-be social engineers in the real world fare as poorly. Their disasters range from the farcical – Brasília, the Brazilian capital city built from scratch according to Le Corbusier's grand design, in which no one wanted to live – to the catastrophic – the starvation of millions as a direct result of Lenin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture.

Whole books could be filled with the man-made ecological disasters caused by attempts to improve the ecosystem or get rid of pests. The African "killer" bee introduced into Brazil to increase pollination levels is today a major menace as

far north as Palm Springs. Cane toads introduced into Australia to eat the cane beetle turned into a plague of near biblical proportions, as the huge toads ate absolutely everything besides the beetle.

Israel boasts one of the highest per capita hubris ratios in the world, so it is not surprising that we should be witness to some of the wackiest schemes in social engineering. Take current efforts to deal with the haredi menace.

As nearly every right-thinking person realizes, the greatest threat facing us today is not the Palestinians but the haredim. They multiply like bugs. Not content with unnatural population growth, they lure unsuspecting children to their schools and trick their unwitting parents.

Like locusts, they gobble up all the national wealth until everyone else in the country is left hovering on the brink of starvation. And worst of all, they seek to impose their way of life on the entire population. Should their political power grow any greater, every woman in Israel will soon be wearing a *sheitel*.

Clearly something must be done before it is too late. Fortunately, Israeli ingenuity has conceived a solution: Import hundreds of thou-

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

sands of non-Jews from Russia.

Even Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein admits that 40 percent of current immigrants from the former Soviet Union are not Jewish by anybody's definition. And close to 70% are not halachically Jewish.

And with every new wave of immigration, the percentage of non-Jews grows, since there are fewer and fewer people left in Russia with any natural ties to Israel. Economics alone drives today's immigration. If the current economic chaos persists in Russia, hundreds of thousands of new immigrants will come to Israel, the vast majority of whom are not Jewish.

IRONICALLY, it is the Law of Return, the secular state's expression of the responsibility of Jews for one another and of the Jewish dream of the ingathering of the exiles, that has become the instrument of de-Judaizing Israel. Under the law, anyone with one Jewish grandparent is automatically entitled to citizenship and full immigrant rights. So too are their non-Jewish spouses and all the spouses

of their relatives. One long dead Jew can thus enable dozens of people with not a drop of Jewish blood to become Israeli citizens.

Far from viewing this situation as a disaster, many in the cultural elite view it as the greatest opportunity to remake Israel in their own image.

A *Yediot Aharanot* editorial this year sharply attacked *Ha'aretz* for pointing out how porous is the Law of Return. "From a true Zionist perspective," opined the *Yediot* editorialist, "the time has come to stop with all these distinctions between Jews and non-Jews. That distinction belongs to *galut*. The only relevant distinction here is between Israeli and Palestinian. Everything else is irrelevant rabbinic bull."

The culmination of the Zionist project of removing the exile from the Jew is thus achieved, but only by severing the connection between Israeli and Jew. An eyebrow is not even raised anymore when the "Jewish" Agency organizes a tour of Christian holy places for new immigrants from Russia.

The 70 Jewish Agency emissaries currently fanning out over the former Soviet Union and gleefully rubbing their hands over the

prospect of large-scale aliyah fueled by economic panic treat the Law of Return as if its goal was the maximization of Israel's population. Those emissaries have, according to Dov Kontor, a senior editor at *Vesti*, "fully internalized the ideology of creating a new Israeli nation, for which Slavs are preferable to haredim and Moroccans."

As one emissary told *Makor Rishon* earlier this year, "Israel lacks sane, non-religious, leftist people. There are several ways to solve the problem. One is to bring in goyim and create a new nation."

From the point of view of its proponents, the wholesale importation of non-Jews has been a smashing success. In 1980, Shabbat observers constituted 20% of the non-Arab population. Today they constitute 15%, and that number is projected to decline to 10% by 2005. So much for the ominous hardening of Israeli society.

What yet remains to be seen is whether a situation in which non-Jews from Russia are the third largest ethnic group in the country will yet plague Israel in ways not foreseen by our enlightened social engineers. Stay tuned until next week.

Middle Israel
AMOTZ ASA-EL

The last hurrah

Back in the 1970s, when teenage role models elsewhere were Bob Dylan, Dustin Hoffman, or O.J. Simpson, we in Jerusalem basked in the tales of such legendary commanders as Meir Har-Zion, Aharon Davidi, and Rafael Eitan, all reared two decades earlier by Ariel Sharon.

Reading accounts, like those in Har-Zion's diaries, of daring hikes through the Galilee mountains and partisan sorties into enemy territory set our juvenile imaginations ablaze and lent impetus to an already blind admiration for Arik.

its myriad minorities' feuds, and ignoring much of the political landscape around him.

IRONICALLY, during half-a-century of national service, Sharon's predicament has been the inversion of Shimon Peres's. The latter has repeatedly been a first-rate statesman-strategist and at the same time a third-rate politician-tactician. With Sharon, it's been the other way around.

After finally obtaining the Defense Ministry, he should have known that for him to involve Israel in any war, let alone a cost-

ly one, would be a non-starter. Conversely, had he held his horses – in the spirit of King Solomon's advice: "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city" – Sharon was well poised to succeed Menachem Begin in due course.

Maybe it's a smart nation's way to verify that its leaders have exhausted all other options, but that's the nature of Israeli politics: if your image is that of a moderate wimp, like Levi Eshkol's was, then you can launch a three-front war and no one will suspect you're battle hungry. Conversely, if your image is that of a preying hawk, like Begin's was, then you can't launch wars, but you can afford to part with the Sinai, the Temple Mount, and Ben-Gurion Airport too.

Interestingly, then, the failure of Sharon's stint as a strategist was much like Yitzhak Rabin's: Israeli doves cannot lead to Oslo-type pacts without some serious hawks aboard, and hawks cannot lead troops to war without some doves too.

For failing to comprehend all this back when he invaded Lebanon, Sharon paid dearly. Now comes his second chance, as foreign minister, an appointment which makes him only the third Israeli – after Shimon Peres and Moshe Dayan – to have held both the Defense and Foreign portfolios.

Now a graying septuagenarian in the twilight of a remarkably eventful career, can Sharon finally make the quantum leap from arch-tactician to grand strategist? The answer is positive, provided he learn from the lessons of previous grand strategists.

From Otto von Bismarck, he should learn that even a country as mighty as Germany must avoid at all costs dealing with more than one enemy at a time.

From Thomas Schelling, he should learn that in the nuclear age strategy has come to mean mastering the art of avoiding war.

And from Carl von Clausewitz, the father of modern military theory, he should learn that no success matters except the final one, and that war is the continuation of diplomacy through other means, and not the other way around. Otherwise, good luck to you, Arik.

Neither anathema nor anachronism

Criticism of Reform Judaism in Israel is usually either hysterical or historical. The hysteria comes in different flavors, but the major themes are well known: Reform Judaism is a sham, corrupting our youth and perverting the truth. It is responsible for none of the achievements of modern Jewish history, and for all its catastrophes. Its rabbis are charlatans and fools. Its lay people are sinners and syncretists – the diatribe goes on and on...

There is not much point in rebutting these wild claims. Those who believe them are predisposed by ideology, and untroubled by reason or facts. Attempts at discourse with exponents of this position are full of sound and fury, and they provide entertainment for bystanders. But they generate little more than frustration and anger, of which there is in any case no shortage in today's Israel.

The historical critique is much more potent. It does not claim that Israeli Reform is heretical, but that it is irrelevant. This argument points out that the various manifestations of Liberal Judaism are

period in Europe and North America. As the Jews of the West grappled with the challenges of modernity, some concocted Reform Judaism as a means of mediating between two worlds.

This historical case against Israeli Reform points out that, in the main, the movement related to Zionism with animosity or with apathy. Reformers seemed to believe, for example, that it was possible to be a German of the Mosaic persuasion. They played down the peoplehood aspects of Judaism, and some tried to deny them outright.

In the view of those who espouse these views, there is little chance for an authentic expression of Israeli Reform to take root. It's in the wrong place, and the wrong century. Given that those who approach Judaism from a liberal perspective take history seriously, we ought to grant these arguments a respectful hearing. Perhaps it is true that this strange import with its unfamiliar ways and permissive outlook is destined to be a curiosity which will merit only a footnote or two in the annals of the Jewish state.

MICHAEL MARMUR

lowing figures, which readers are welcome to challenge and check at their leisure. In the course of the Jewish year just ended, approximately 100,000 people in Israel attended a wedding at which a Reform rabbi officiated. Some 50,000 were present at a bar or bat mitzva ceremony in one of the congregations of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (that's Reform). Over 10,000 Israelis chose to spend Yom Kippur in one of our synagogues. These numbers do not even take into account the burgeoning Masorti (Conservative) Movement.

IF ISRAELI Reform is merely bothersome and superfluous, somebody forgot to tell these and the thousands of others who send their children to Reform pre-schools and schools, and those who attend countless educational and cultural activities.

In terms of the provision of alternative religious services, it seems hard to deny that the move-

born out of a distaste for the establishment and a thirst for Jewish expression. "Real" Israelis are turning to Reform and Conservative Judaism, and it may be that as society encounters the threat and promise of modernity, a modified version of these movements will merit not a footnote, but a whole chapter.

The last weeks have been witness to extraordinary developments in certain sectors of the Orthodox camp here. To judge from reports or recent conferences, such as that held at Kibbutz Lavi, some of the most creative and courageous Modern Orthodox Jews are confronting issues such as the status of women with a new boldness. They are showing a willingness to listen and learn from non-Orthodox streams, without giving up for a moment on their deeply-held beliefs. It is in such an atmosphere that genuine pluralism can flourish.


Israeli Reform is neither anathema nor anachronism. Its real challenge is not to be more Orthodox, as its critics usually claim. Instead, it must find a way to be more and

ing principles. The figures quoted above are impressive enough, but when one begins to count the heads of Israelis living an intensive Reform lifestyle, the reality is sobering. Most of the masses stay out on the periphery.

Beyond the provision of service, Israeli Reform has yet to articulate a coherent and engaging approach to modern living capable of engaging the mind and speaking to the heart. The real problem with Reform is that it is not sufficiently Reform, in the deepest and finest sense of the term.

There is nothing worthwhile to say to those who despise non-Orthodox Judaism for being non-Orthodox. They are entitled to their views, even if they deny any similar entitlement to others. But to those who are tired of name-calling and sense an urgent need for Jewish renewal, Reform has a potential role to play. Whether or not this potential is realized depends on its capacity to be true to its name.

The writer, a rabbi, is dean of the Hebrew Union College in



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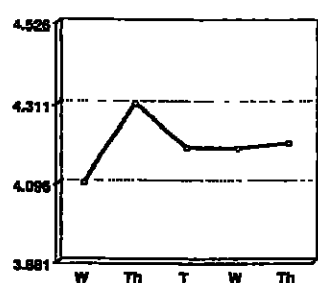
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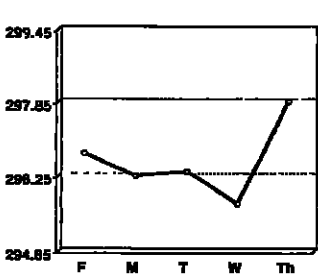
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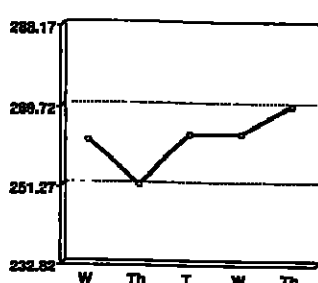


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\$ per ounce

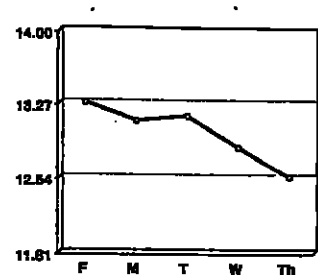


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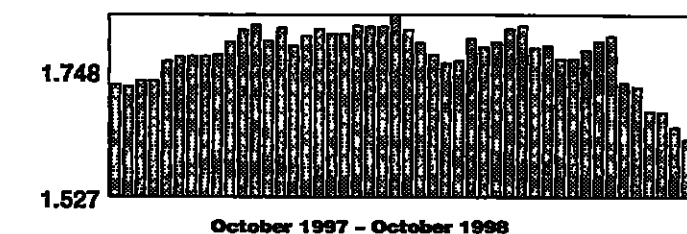


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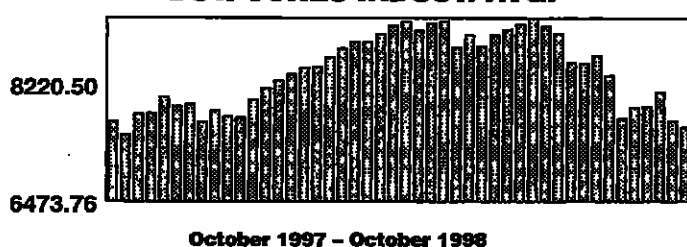
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Nissho Iwai to close deals worth \$740m. with Israeli firms

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

Japanese giant Nissho Iwai Corporation yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* it is in the process of completing deals with three Israeli companies worth a combined \$740 million. Koichi Naito, general manager of the company's Tel Aviv office, said the deals for work in third countries with the Merhav Group, Tahal Consulting Engineers, and Bateman Project Holding are in addition to the company's direct dealings with Israel, which this year will amount to more than \$100m. Next week the Herzliya-based Merhav and Nissho Iwai are expected to complete a \$430 million deal to construct a polypropylene plant in Turkmenistan, according to Naito. On site work is expected to start immediately, he added. Merhav acts on behalf of the Turkmen government in a variety of projects, particularly in financing. Nissho Iwai, the world's 13th largest cor-

poration with annual turnover of \$80 billion, and Tahal two weeks ago received Turkish approval to construct an 82-kilometer open water channel taking water from a lake close to the Syrian border to fields in need of irrigation. Similar to the Israeli national water carrier, the channel will be open, but the distribution from the main channel will be through closed pipelines.

Naito said the \$140m. financing for this project has already been arranged through Japanese and Israeli banks, with Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Company backing guaranteed.

The decree signed by Turkish officials makes it clear that an Israeli company can participate in the project and that no tender need be published.

Tahal CEO Yael Efron yesterday urged caution, saying this deal is in its earliest stages, but confirmed that talks had been ongoing for a year. Naito, however, said he is

confident work will commence in six months. The aim is for a Turkish contractor to build the channel and pipelines, said Efron.

The third key project for Nissho Iwai is the complete refurbishment of a non-ferrous metals factory in Georgia at a cost of \$270m. It is hoped that Yokne'am-based Bateman and Nissho Iwai will complete the financing arrangements by the end of March, with work commencing a year later, said Naito. Some \$100m. will come from Japanese banks with \$30m. from Israel.

Yesterday Nissho Iwai's London office began negotiating for additional financing with The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. South African sources are also expected to be tapped to fund the project.

Once the factory is restored it will be managed by a Georgian company. Some of the Japanese conglomerate's top

executives were in Jerusalem this week for the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit, including Vice Chairman Matsumoto Goto. The corporation was represented by 12 executives, making it the largest foreign delegation to attend the three-day event, which closed yesterday.

"During the conference, dozens of Israeli companies approached us for funding of projects in infrastructure," said Shahar Meidan, the company's Tel Aviv business development manager. "In the coming months we'll process the requests and we'll find some of them during the course of 1999."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Goto during their meeting that the Israeli stock market and real estate are both undervalued and he called on the company to consider direct investments in real estate here. In response, Goto promised to investigate the issue, said Naito.

PA stock exchange faces collapse

The Palestinian Securities Exchange, once hailed as a symbol of fledgling Palestinian independence, faces collapse after only 20 months of operation, the managing director said Wednesday.

Trading has dropped sharply since the start of the year because investors have lost confidence and because the Palestinian Authority has failed to pass the necessary regulations, said the managing director, Safwan Bataineh, a Wall Street veteran and former economic adviser to Jordanian prime ministers.

"If this continues, the stock market will collapse because companies are losing money," he said.

Bataineh submitted his resignation to the board of directors last week in protest over the failure of the PA to pass laws that would require companies to make their financial information public.

Bataineh said the lack of movement in the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians has also scared away business people afraid to invest in an unstable area.

There was no immediate comment from the Palestinian Finance Ministry.

Bataineh said that daily trading was about \$1 million at the start of the year, and was now down to about \$140,000.

In February 1997, the Palestinian stock market opened to a round of applause from Palestinians hopeful it would bring enough foreign investment to give their economy a boost.

At that time, Bataineh said the PA economy could attract as much as \$1 billion a year, if peacemaking is firmly on track. (AP)



Indians demonstrate against child labor

Street children from Bombay participate in a candle light procession yesterday to protest child labor. India has come under criticism for relying on child labor, especially the fireworks industry which employs more than 100,000 children. (AP)

Treasury considers light rail funding guarantees

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

The Treasury has begun to examine the possibility of providing a safety net for the company that will be appointed to build and operate the proposed Jerusalem light rail system, according to Moshe Hirsh, the head of the Jerusalem Transportation Master Plan Team.

Addressing the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit, Hirsh said he hopes the prequalification tender details will be issued early next year, as soon as the program is formally approved by the Finance Ministry.

The team has asked the Treasury to consider offering the successful bidder a combination of an initial investment subsidy and revenue guarantees, Hirsh explained.

However, Ports and Railways Authority Chairman Azriel Feuchtwanger intimated that Hirsh's team will be very lucky to come away with any financial assistance from the Treasury.

In his opening remarks to the conference, Feuchtwanger attacked the Treasury for its lack of interest in public transport. "The people at the Finance Ministry don't agree that transport is a service for the public but [believe] that it should be seen on

purely economic grounds." He added that over the last five years the waiting time for ship berths in Israeli ports has more than doubled.

Later in the day, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman told *The Jerusalem Post* that Feuchtwanger's claim is unfounded, saying that railway expenditure is being increased for 1999.

Hirsh said he expects the tender for the rail system will be issued in 2000, with the first line between Pisgat Ze'ev and Yad Vashem fully operational in 2004-5. Some 200,000 commuters would use that route on a daily basis, he estimated.

The Jerusalem system should be the first in the country's major cities to be operational, said Transport Ministry Director General Nahoum Langental.

Hirsh said that in all probability a tender will be issued next year for the construction of a cable car in Haifa, taking passengers from the university sites down the Carmel to the bay area.

Meanwhile, in Beersheba the municipality is in the process of completing a study of possible mass transit systems centered on either an updated bus system or a light railway, with the report expected next year.

Defense firms sign 7 accords with US, Europe

By STEVE RODAN

Defense companies yesterday signed seven agreements for cooperation with their US and European counterparts regarding the joint marketing and production of Israeli-based weapons systems. The deals have an estimated potential of billions of dollars.

Most of the memorandums of understanding signed in the presence of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and ministry Director-General Ilan Biran concerned the exploration of opportunities by Israeli and Western companies.

"These are long-term programs of cooperation between companies with the result of significant orders for the Israeli defense industries," Biran said. "This will help the economy very much and certainly the defense industries. We have to aim for at least \$2 billion in annual exports."

Several memorandums concern the expansion of current agreements between Israeli and US defense manufacturers. For example, Elbit Systems Ltd. signed an accord with Kaiser Aerospace and Electronics to expand their the production and marketing of helmet

mounted systems. The two companies created Vision Systems International, and won a contract to develop and produce the systems for the US Air Force and Navy.

Defense executives estimate the market for helmet mounted systems at \$1 billion.

The new agreement calls for joint development of the next generation of helmet systems - which would allow a fighter pilot instant access to his display and weapons system - and explore the introduction of a modified helmet for the helicopter market.

Edward Durbin, Kaiser's vice chairman, said trust and identical goals are a requirement for successful partnerships. "Partners have to talk frequently," he said. "They have to make a significant contribution. If an Israeli partner says it wants to participate but has nothing to offer, then it won't work."

Elbit Systems president Joseph Ackerman said the first target for the jointly-owned Vision Systems would be to include the helmet-mounted system in the AH-64 Apache helicopters Israel wants to buy from Boeing.

Rafael, the Armaments

Development Authority, signed two agreements. One with Lockheed Martin expands the two companies' current production and marketing agreement to include the Python 4 air-to-air missile. The cooperation marks Lockheed Martin's entry into the air-to-air missile field. Both companies already jointly produce and market Rafael's Popeye air-to-ground missile in sales that now exceed \$400 million.

The second agreement is between Rafael and the German STN Atlas Electronic for the joint marketing and production of the Israeli Gill, Spike, and NT-D anti-tank missiles. Rafael and STN Atlas will establish a new company, Eurospike Consortium, to market Rafael's product line in Europe and elsewhere.

Israel Aircraft Industries participated in the signing of three agreements. One was a memorandum of understanding with Lockheed Martin to explore future opportunities in the upgrade of the F-16s. A second was an accord with Boeing to seek joint ventures. A third was for IAI's subsidiary, Elta Electronics Industries, to develop and market airborne early-warning

systems, based on Elta's Phalcon radar, with Raytheon Systems. The final agreement, announced at the signing, was between El-Op Electro-Optics Industries and Northrop Grumman. This was a memorandum of understanding to explore the possibility of both companies to supply the US Navy with advanced cameras for the pods on the F/A-18.

Nasdaq chief: Windows opening for Israeli firms

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israeli companies which are desperately in need of money should consider ways other than going public in the US, Charles Balfour, senior vice president and managing director of Nasdaq International, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Balfour, who is attending the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit, said the market is now in "a time of stress" and will be slow for all Israeli companies. "They will have to look for windows of opportunity and there will be windows of opportunity even between now and Christmas," he said.

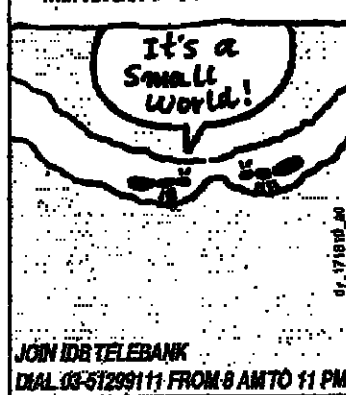
He added that once the market steadies down and volatility decreases it will become much easier for investors to reevaluate the situation. "They will see where they are, what their investment strategy is, and how much they are willing to pay for companies. It will also give companies and investment banks an opportunity to look at the valuations and decide whether they want to come to the market that low."

Balfour says companies that can afford to wait for the window of

chance to raise money on Nasdaq this year. "I advise them to prepare themselves well and get ready to take that opportunity," he said.

Balfour said that Israeli companies are not expected to suffer more than US firms. "I think the market is going to be generally difficult for all companies. My advice is for companies with good products and a good sales pitch and a good story should prepare themselves, because there's an opportunity out there."

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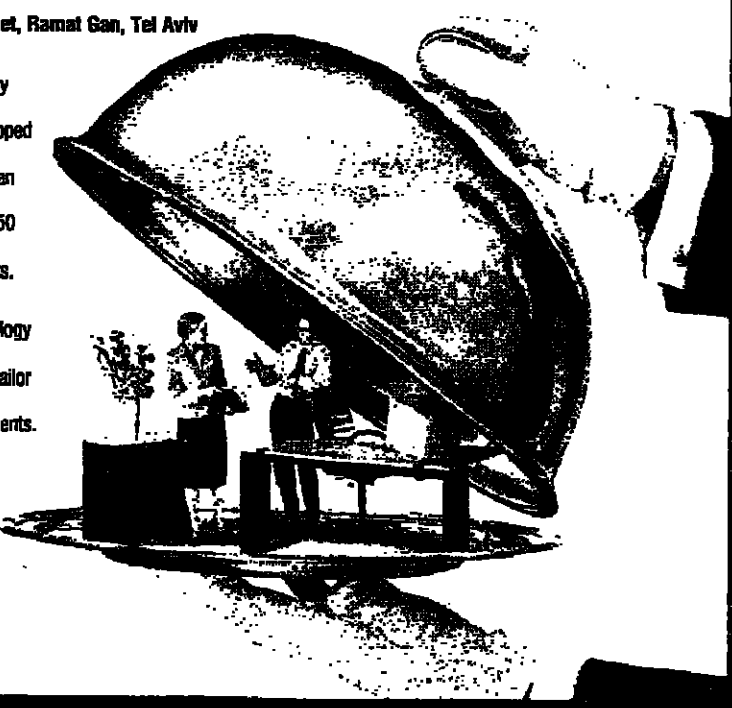
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The Jerusalem Post Friday, October 16, 1998

FINANCIAL MARKETS

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Alpine Hotel 2	17000	0.5
Alpine Hotel 3	2070	1.5
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RAM
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Wye, the stepping-stone summit



The River House on the Wye Plantation where the Israeli delegation is staying during the Mideast peace talks that opened yesterday: If an agreement is reached, the most likely reaction will be: 'It's about time.'

In the first of what promises to be a host of puns about the site of this week's American push for an Israeli-Palestinian redeployment-for-security accord, ambassador to the US Zalmay Shoval joked Wednesday that "I am tempted to call it a How Plantation, not a Wye Plantation, because there are many issues still to resolve."

The reality, of course, is no laughing matter. There is a surprising level of fatigue in Washington this week, as well as pessimism about the future. Many assume that a deal will, at long last, get done on the rustic grounds of the Wye River Conference Center. But the caveat quickly follows: The parties have yet to tackle the core issues of the conflict.

While all sides are hoping that the deliberations that began yesterday in eastern Maryland culminate in a deal, no one is popping the champagne corks just yet. One US official said this week that while an agreement is within reach, it is not a foregone conclusion.

This week's killing outside Jerusalem will result in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeking "to strike a much harder bargain on security" in his talks with Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat, the official said.

"The question is: How far can Arafat go to meet his demands? I think it'll be a difficult negotiation. I don't think it's a done deal. I really don't. I don't think anyone [else in the administration] does either."

The bottom line, both in and outside the administration, is that despite its importance in breaking the long stalemate, this accord will be seen as anticlimactic. The most likely reaction when it is signed? It's about time.

A sampling of views:
• "It isn't all that big a deal. I don't want to sound flippant, because any progress is important and welcome. But it only sets the stage for dealing with the really big problems." — former secretary of state Alexander Haig.
• "It's probably better than nothing, in

the sense that 'nothing' would mark a permanent stalemate, and I think that would have serious long-term repercussions. I don't know how much better this is than a long-term stalemate.... It's a mixed picture, but it's a mixed gloomy picture." — former national security advisor Brent Scowcroft.

• "I don't see where this takes us. It may be better than nothing at all, but not much better. Bringing the final-status issues into focus is going to remind us how far apart they are." — former National Security Council official William Quandt.

• "I'm puzzled as to why it's taken so long. What has [Netanyahu] gotten out of the wait? We've talked nine, 10, 11, 12, 13 percent withdrawal — for what? To keep the desert safe for gazelles?" — the State Department's former top official in the Middle East, Richard Murphy.

• "In some ways, [the further redeployment] has lost some of its significance because it's been so long and painful in coming. Even a successful conclusion to the 13 percent deal will not be enough to generate the momentum that will be needed to avert a crisis next May." — one of Quandt's successors, Richard Haass.

The Wye summit experiment, they said, can hardly be deemed a success unless the current stage is wrapped up here and permanent-status negotiations begin almost immediately on its heels.

I remember Dennis used to talk about bringing [the parties] to this kind of setting and kicking off final-status talks, an administration official said ruefully, referring to the US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross.

"And here we are doing it for an interim agreement. The fact that there hasn't been an interim agreement, and the parties are coming here to wrap it up, demonstrates how low the trust and mutual confidence are on both sides."

Make that: "on the three sides," Washington included. How else to explain the cynical scenario of an accord reached at Wye but ultimately not imple-

mented because of a terrorist attack that turns Netanyahu against Arafat yet again, causing the cancellation of agreed-to Israeli redeployments because of security concerns?
"I think that we're kind of reaching the end of the road rather than starting a new era," said Quandt, who was involved in the Camp David negotiations. "This is not the beginning of a new chapter. There's a long way to go. This is not peace in our time."

Even the occasional gesture of goodwill, like Arafat presenting Netanyahu with a box of cigars during their luncheon meeting in Gaza last week, has been turned on its head.

"The worst thing that can happen is they might be stale, which typifies the state of the peace process," Murphy chuckled. "Either that, or they're exploding cigars."

AMERICAN presidents simply don't "do" summits in which the US is not a direct party to the dispute. Jimmy Carter, of course, hosted Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat at another Maryland retreat, Camp David, 20 years ago. But even President Clinton avoided putting his imprint on the ultimately successful Bosnia peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, several years ago because the risk of failure was so great.

When it comes to the Middle East, Clinton has shown a greater willingness to take a chance when the stakes are high for Israel, the Palestinians — and himself. Exactly two years ago he summoned

Netanyahu and Arafat to the White House when Israeli-Palestinian relations were on the verge of collapse following riots in the territories.

Last month Netanyahu and Arafat returned. Now, Clinton is hosting them again. Netanyahu and Arafat need an agreement, no less so than the president.

"Clinton is the one who needs it the most — more than Netanyahu, more than Arafat," said Shibley Telhami, professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland. "That means he'll provide whatever incentives he can. The problem is, he doesn't have many to give."

"On one side of the ledger there are dozens of unresolved issues. Any sane person would look at it and say there's no way we can get a comprehensive agreement, even on the interim issues," said Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "On the other side, there's the president's need to avoid a failure."

"That one item may outweigh all of the other items and is the sole reason for optimism in this negotiation. Presidents are structurally not allowed to have summit meetings that fail. Ergo, it will be a success."

It is no secret what a success will mean for Clinton. He is battling for his political life and facing House hearings on a possible impeachment. The summit occurs just two weeks before the midterm congressional elections that will determine who will sit in judgment of him.

But skeptical talk of a presidential

manipulation of Israeli-Palestinian affairs for personal gains do not follow.

"It's good domestic politics, with or without his problems," said Scowcroft. "He's celebrating something happening in the Middle East. It's got to help with the Jewish community of the US, and that's good. It helps, just in general."

"I think it'll be in the interest of both parties to make this a success for the president, for their own reasons," said Haig.

THE CRUCIAL question underlying this entire summit is whether the talks become a dead end or a springboard to the final-status talks. In recent months the US has been increasingly, and publicly, agitated over the prospect of the peace process exploding over a chain of events set off by the expiration of the Oslo accord in May 1999 — beginning with Arafat possibly declaring a Palestinian state.

Clinton has underlined the importance of the parties tackling the crux of the conflict, but the administration is under no illusions of reaching a final peace treaty by next May.

It knows it must first solve this crisis before pushing for the bigger prize. As Haass put it: "The summit has to constitute a successful transition to the next phase of peacemaking."

Asked why the US is playing the summit card now, the US official said: "I think the feeling is that it's stretched on so long, it's [hurt US credibility overseas]. People look at May 4, 1999, and say, 'We have to get over the hurdle of an interim agreement.' I think there's a feeling that absent that, Arafat is going to make a unilateral declaration of independence.... Making a declaration like that creates a very unstable and unpredictable situation."

"There is a feeling that looking ahead to May next year, a step like this was necessary to get into final-status negotiations."

In a best-case scenario, he said, Israel and the Palestinians will conclude a redeployment deal and, while still at

Wye, launch a "symbolic plenary session" adjourn for a few weeks, then "reconstitute" into working groups to tackle the final-status issues. Those talks could be held back in the US, at Erez, or elsewhere, he said.

Past experience with Clinton-Netanyahu-Arafat summits is a good indicator for progress this time, he added — as are the previous Arab-Israeli talks held at Wye between Israel and Syria nearly three years ago.

"Although the talks ended without an agreement and were viewed as a failure, in fact they weren't a failure because they set the stage for the negotiating process that led to the Hebron Accord. I feel that very strongly," he said of Clinton's White House summit with Netanyahu and Arafat two years ago.

"The presidential card is not a card you want to play very often, but you want to play it when it can lead to an agreement or launch a process."

Similarly, in the Jerusalem-Damascus negotiations, "I must say... they led to a lot of progress and set the stage for the possibility of reaching an agreement. Essentially, [Syrian President Hafez] Assad and the Syrians missed the chance for an agreement."

At some point, Clinton will have to decide, too, whether the stakes are so high for him and the parties that he will resort to twisting their arms, something he has been reluctant to do in his first six years in office.

With Arafat and Netanyahu still trying to one-up each other this week, the Wye talks may finally force them into what Telhami calls a "mutual working relationship" of "common interests."

"The real question is if this is a first step in a process that will require more difficult steps," he said. "In that sense it's important. Oslo was a bigger deal than this could possibly be, but the mistake people made at Oslo was assuming that peace was at hand, when it was only the beginning."

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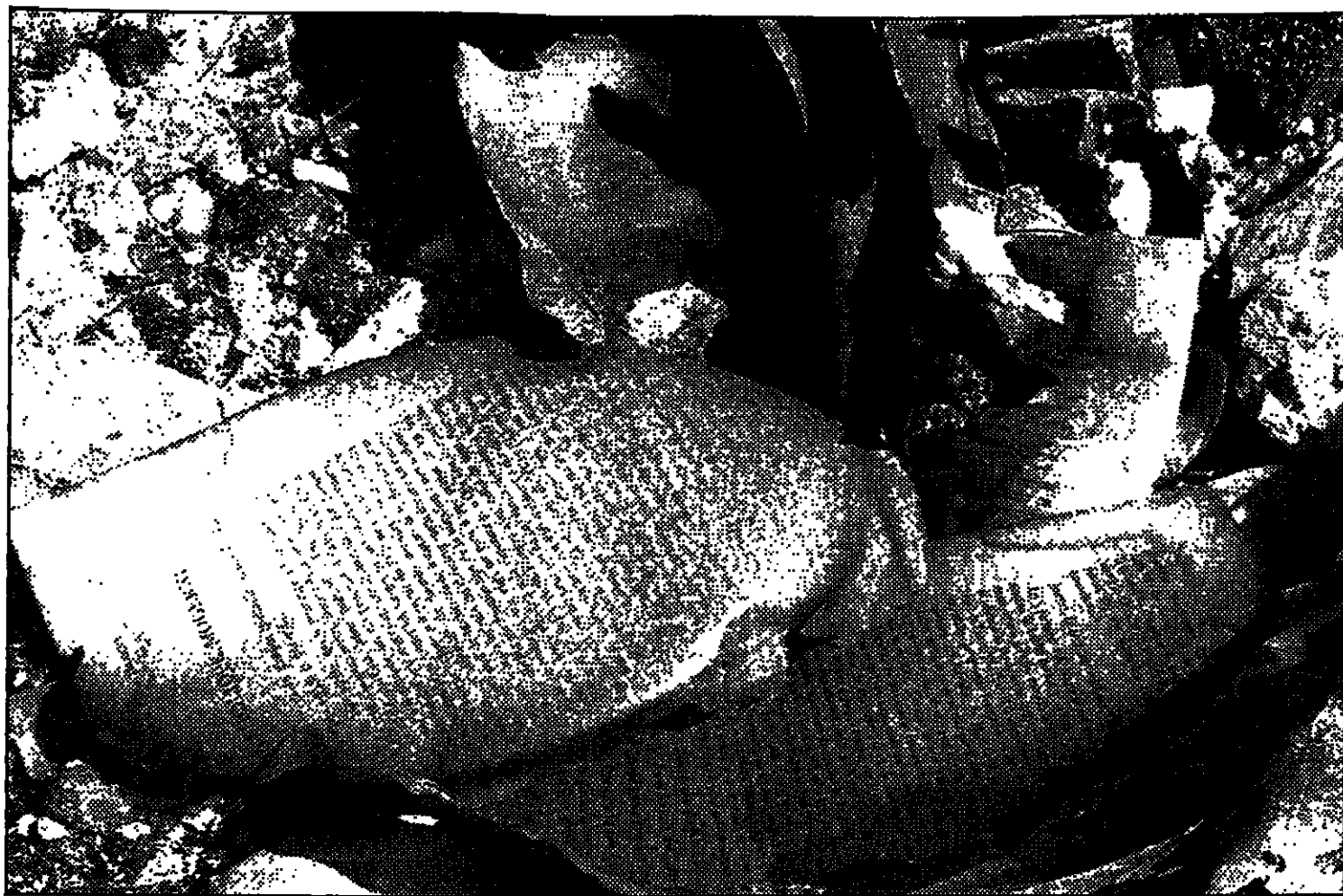
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When the smoke clears

This week's fires in the Mount Carmel area consumed trees that were decades, and in some cases, centuries old. For animals in the forest, the fire was a catastrophe that is not over. **Larry Derfner** reports



Some unlucky residents of Ein Hod returned to find the contents of their houses reduced to black wreckage and ash. (Photos: Jonathan Bloom)

The fire in Ein Hod was out by Wednesday morning, but here and there smoke was still rising from burned trees. The residents were coming back.

Most of their houses, built in the middle of a pine forest, had suffered little damage or none at all. A few, though, were just black wreckage and ash.

A man and his wife, in their 60s, were standing inside one of the dark ruins, seeing if anything of theirs was left. A reporter asked if they wanted to talk, if they wanted to try to characterize what it was they had lost.

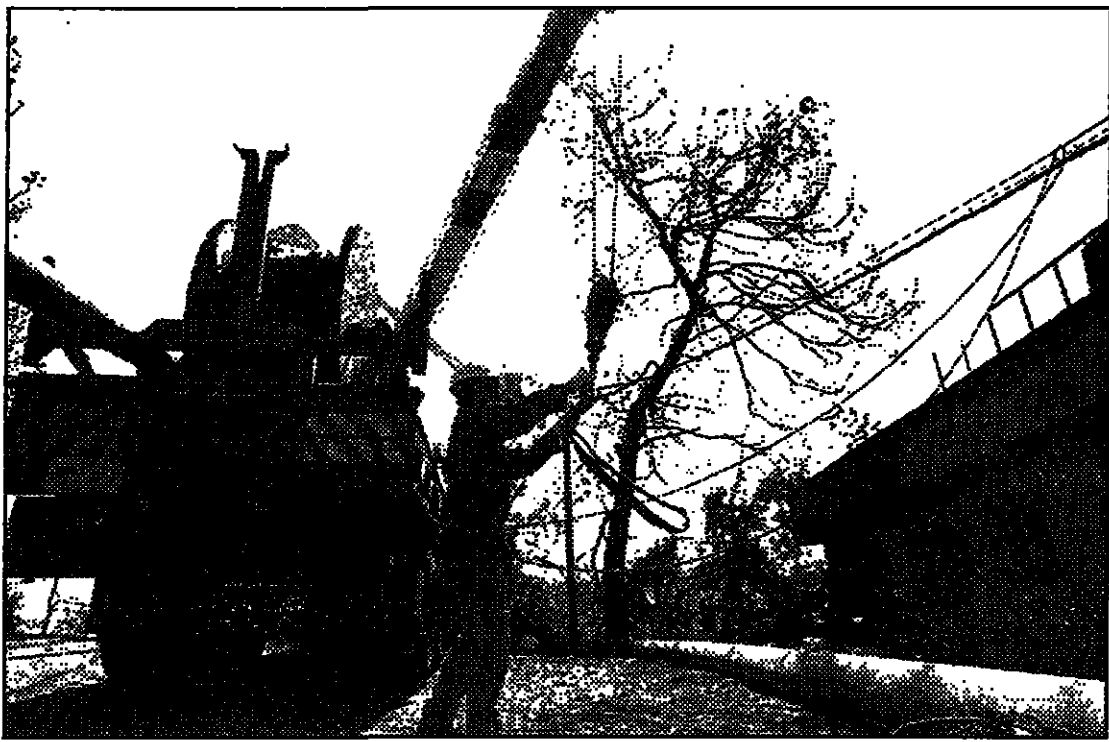
"I'd prefer not to speak to the media," the man said. "The story of what was lost is in my heart, and that's where it will stay." A few hundred meters up the hill in Moshav Nir Etzion, which had been similarly visited by the fire, Salman Abu Rukhun stood near the edge of a slope, looking through binoculars at the opposite hillside.

Part of what he saw was still green from treetops that hadn't been touched by the fire, but a big swath of it was gray from ash, with thin, burned tree trunks sticking out like hair plugs in a bald scalp.

"Somebody saw smoke rising and they thought it might be a new fire, but it was just a large trunk that was smoking. It was in the middle of a burned-out area, so it wasn't dangerous," Abu Rukhun said, putting down the binoculars.

"A trunk that big can burn for two or three days before the smoke will start rising from it," he said.

As much as anyone, Abu Rukhun knows the Carmel Forest. He's



The Electric Corporation at work repairing Ein Hod's infrastructure

lived all his 51 years in its midst, in the Druze village of Ushya.

Now head of public education for the Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority, he started out over 20 years ago as a ranger in Carmel National Park, and was its chief ranger when the last big fire broke out there in 1989.

"The one this week was much bigger," he said.

The parts of the forest destroyed nine years ago – north of the area

burned this week – are now green again, but the trees are still small. They are decades and in some cases centuries from regaining their previous stature.

The newly burned forest around the villages of Ein Hod, Ein Hud, Kibbutz Nir Etzion and the Haifa neighborhood of Denya – about 6,000 dunams in all – won't return to form any quicker, said Abu Rukhun.

Most of the trees destroyed were natural (unplanted) Jerusalem pine. Others included carob, pistachio and olive trees.

Some of the loveliest, most popular sites overrun by the fire were the Etzba Ridge near Beit Oren, Nahal Nader next to Denya, Nahal Hod near Ein Hod, and Hirbet Higlun near Nir Etzion. In these regions the trees had grown to a height of 10 meters.

The pines were old for their species, 50 years or more, while the pistachio, carob and olive trees had lived for centuries, Abu Rukhun noted.

For animals in the forest, the fire was a catastrophe that is not over.

Snakes, tortoises and other reptiles in the fire's path were killed. Most foxes, jackals and other wild animals, as well as birds, managed to run or fly away from the advancing

flames, but they now will be hard-pressed to make new homes.

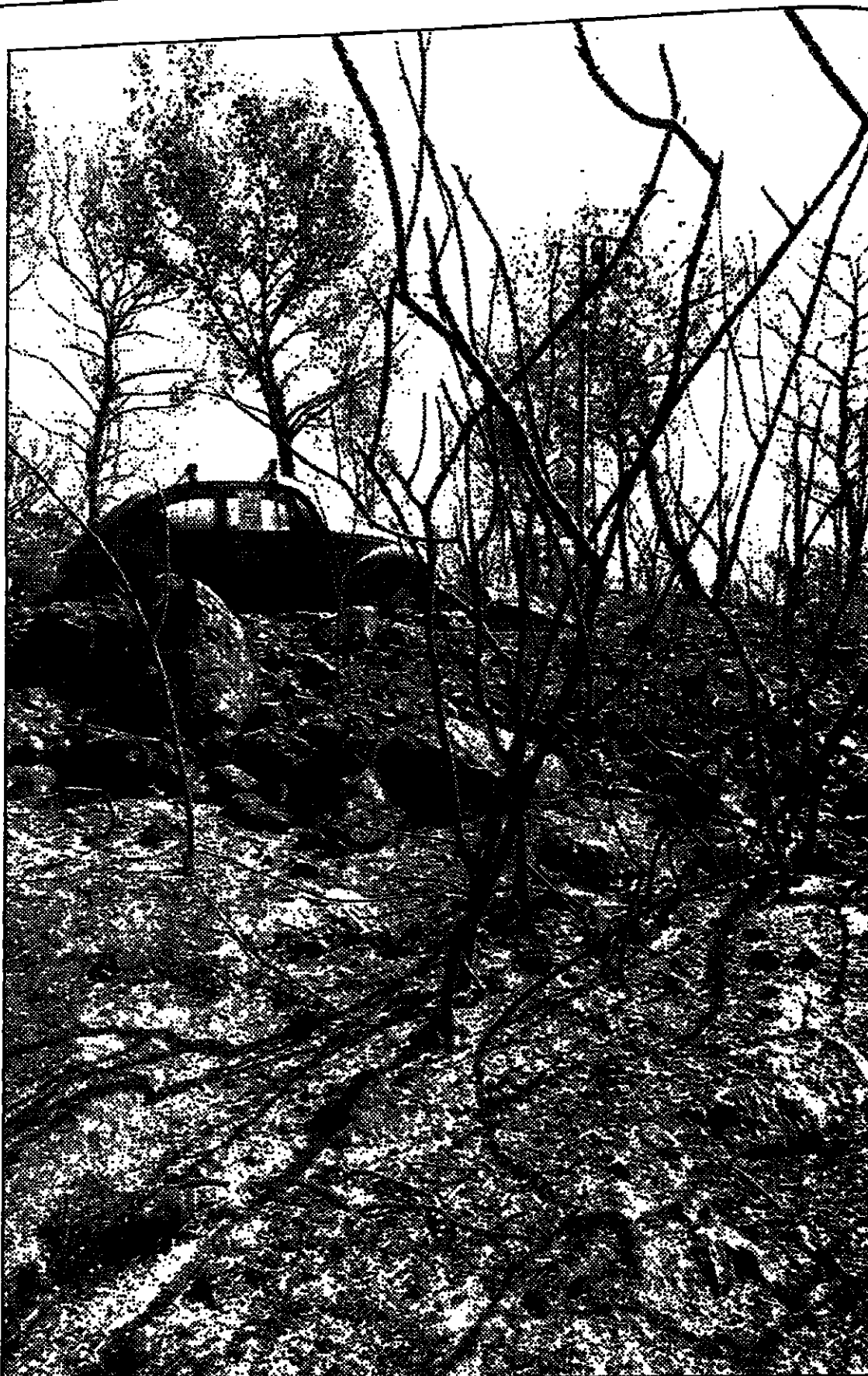
"They won't go back if there's no food and shelter, and the fire has taken that away," Abu Rukhun noted. "So the animals and birds will converge on new spots, but there won't be enough room for all of them, and many won't survive."

Most of the destroyed trees will not be replanted, but rather left to grow again naturally – and more slowly – on their own, said Abu Rukhun. If the burned trees are cleared away and replanted, there will be nothing to hold back the topsoil from being washed away by the winter rains.

"We're not only concerned with the trees, but with the interdependency of all the plants and animals of the forest," he said.

For all its devastation, though, the fire will bring one glorious benefit to the forest which will be evident in the spring – a stupendous outcropping of anemones, cyclamen, buttercups, and other local wildflowers. "Without the trees to keep them in shadow, all sorts of flowers will be coming out for the sunlight," he said.

"Nature is very strong, very durable," Abu Rukhun concluded. "We just have to learn how to keep from harming it."



After the fire storms that ravaged the north, burned tree trunks stick out like hair plugs in a bald scalp.



Head of public education for the Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority, Salman Abu Rukhun: "We're not only concerned with the trees, but with the interdependency of all the plants and animals of the forest."

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50th Anniversary

A marriage of convenience

Why would Ariel Sharon suddenly want to negotiate the second redeployment he has battled against? Why would the prime minister ask him to? Sarah Honig explains how Sharon's appointment as foreign minister suits them both

The Likud is rife with whispered accounts of clandestine negotiations that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is supposed to have conducted in recent months to shore up his slim parliamentary majority.

He turned left and he turned right in his search for potential allies, to no avail. The appointment of Ariel Sharon, insist Likud pundits, ought to be regarded in this context — as another effort to fortify the coalition. Sharon won't be expanding it, but he could prevent its further disintegration.

There is some support for this theory from outside the Likud.

Moshe Ze'evi's Rehavam Ze'evi has not denied that he had been courted and offered a cabinet position, which, curiously, nearly parallels what Sharon is currently in charge of at the National Infrastructure Ministry.

Ze'evi says, however, that he will have nothing to do with any scheme "to join a government of capitulation which recklessly hands over large tracts of Eretz Yisrael to bloodthirsty murderers, so that the execution of their nefarious plots will be facilitated."

But such resolute pronouncements have not quashed Likud speculation that Ze'evi is the next Netanyahu ministerial recruit.

Not that this would please too many Likud ministerial aspirants, since the National Infrastructure portfolio, which Sharon will continue holding for at least three more months, is one of the most coveted.

It started out as an artificial concoction to give Sharon the semblance of a ministry. But Sharon, with his irrepressible drive, turned what could have been a dead-end sinecure into a powerhouse. The National Infrastructure portfolio is reputed to be among the greatest sources of clout in the cabinet, not least because it controls an impressive budget and affords a great opportunity for creating jobs.

This is sure to cause many Likud mouths to water, as well as those of rivals in the National Religious Party and Shas. It could become the focus of new conflicts and crises, which is perhaps why Sharon will hold on to it for a while.

Not only will clashes be prevented inside the coalition, but all the hopefuls in the various parties — and especially inside the Likud:

Silvan Shalom, Moshe Katsav, Meir Sheerit, Michael Elitzan and the ubiquitous Shaul Amor — will do their utmost to stay on Netanyahu's good side. For as long as the portfolio remains under Sharon's control, there will be no disappointed malcontents to destabilize the government.

But in the Likud there are many who maintain that he will hold on to it only until after the fate of the second redeployment becomes clear. At that point, Ze'evi might be coaxed to join the coalition and be rewarded with the portfolio that would enable him to do as much as Sharon had proven can be done with such a hybrid.

YET IF political observers are convinced that Ze'evi remains a potential ministerial candidate, regardless of his staunch and oft-repeated denials, the same cannot be said about the other man Netanyahu is said to have been wooing for David Levy.

Levy's reentry into the Netanyahu government has been

that Sharon is in charge of foreign affairs, no major portfolio remains to be allocated to Labor.

Although Levy had — publicly, at least — mocked attempts to return him to the coalition, he is now reported to be indignant, charging that Netanyahu and Sharon wronged him by appointing a new foreign minister.

His brother, Maxim, claims that the Levy aspect of the story is "full of bitter ironies."

The portfolio Sharon is inheriting is the one which Levy relinquished in a huff in January. As long as it wasn't handed to anyone, the chance remained that Levy could be mollified. He was not an easy man to work with and his reputation in the Foreign Ministry itself was far from sterling, but he did have a faction of five MKs to offer as a dowry.

The attempts to bring Levy back were conducted indirectly, via emissaries, despite his frequent acerbic outbursts against Netanyahu.

This lasted until early September. Levy was then dropped, not

because he became any more troublesome, but because MK Michael Kleiner announced that he was suspending his membership in the Geshet faction.

Another Geshet MK, David Magen, had already done this. Both were miffed by Geshet's growing chumminess with the Left, and Kleiner, the head of the Knesset's Eretz Yisrael Front, was especially unlikely to agree to vote for any redeployment deal.

The arithmetic was simple. Levy's dowry shrank to himself, Maxim Levy and MK Yehuda Lankri, all considered unreliable. Their potential to cause friction far outweighed the value of their additional votes, which could not be counted on in any case. So the Levy option was finally abandoned, leaving Levy crouching seething with resentment.

Sharon, Maxim Levy points out, "only got into the Netanyahu government in the first place because David Levy was ready to sacrifice his own ministerial appointment for him. He was willing to

toss the Foreign Affairs portfolio back in Netanyahu's face if Sharon were not appointed a minister. Now Sharon comes and takes that portfolio for himself."

INDEED, it is ironic to recall that in the genesis of the Netanyahu



Ariel Sharon is back in the thick of things — and his part in negotiations with the Palestinians may waylay right-wing opposition to further Israeli redeployment in the West Bank.

administration, Sharon was all but persona non grata in Netanyahu's proximity. Those were the heady days, when Netanyahu talked about appointing political outsiders as ministers, rather than political kingpins.

In that scheme of things there was no room for Sharon. Levy threatened not to enter the cabinet if Sharon were not included and he negotiated the creation of the Infrastructure Ministry on Sharon's behalf.

Sharon, rather than sulking, worked himself tirelessly back onto center stage. His indispensability was demonstrated during the days following last year's bungled assassination attempt against Yitzhak Mordechai in Amman, when Sharon singlehandedly succeeded in placating an angry King Hussein.

The man who was nearly relegated to the ranks of the has-beens made himself a forceful No. 2, it is admitted around Netanyahu. Unofficially, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had laid claim to that status. Now Sharon is sure to overshadow him, a development which is not likely to vex Netanyahu.

Putting Mordechai in his place is something that many in Netanyahu's coterie had wished they could do for quite a while. Sharon may do the job for them and Netanyahu's hands will be clean.

There is some apprehension around Netanyahu that in the process Sharon may also dwarf such Netanyahu aides as Dan Naveh and Yitzhak Molcho. Still, they are not political figures, while the political benefits Sharon may

accrue to Netanyahu far outweigh any theoretical disadvantage.

THE MOST immediate benefit is that Sharon is being removed from top of the list of possible Netanyahu foes on the Right, being perhaps the most potent of them all.

Sharon could have spearheaded a right-wing insurrection. The organized opposition to Oslo is considerably weakened without him, because his chief appeal is on the unorganized Right, among the rank and file. The organized far Right has already condemned his appointment.

Sharon's immense popularity and his near-exalted status among the rightist grass roots, brings to Netanyahu the consensus of the mainstream right wing. The association with Sharon strengthens Netanyahu's nationalist image at a time he needs it most — on the eve of possible concessions.

If the far Right rages nonetheless, Sharon may function as an effective lightning rod for Netanyahu. He will attract the brunt of the fury and deflect fire from the prime minister. This could well prolong the government's life, despite its razor-thin majority.

This is cited as the prime reason Netanyahu needed Sharon as his foreign minister now, and has led many to conclude that a second redeployment deal is all but ready, making Sharon more essential than ever.

Those who subscribe to this theory point to Sharon's history as a minister who knows how to get along with his premier. They cite his work at Menachem Begin's

side, when he helped with the most troublesome aspect of the Camp David Accords — the removal of the Sinai settlements.

These theorists, of course, conveniently choose to overlook the other side of his ministerial history, when he led the "constraints ministers" against perceived concessions by prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. Those who recall that other Sharon doubt that he is about to engage in a rerun of the Sinai pullback.

FOR SHARON, there is no doubt a sense of vindication from what he has always regarded as the calamity of the Kahan Report. He is now, again at the forefront of the nation's leadership, convinced that he can do much good in the final-status talks.

He is a formidable negotiator. He is imaginative, resourceful and thinks ahead, concentrating on long-term solutions. The Arabs respect him and he carries much weight by virtue of the fact that he knows the material and the terrain like few others.

But those who studied Sharon well doubt he will taint his reputation with the 13% withdrawal which he so hotly opposes. Some suggest that he would not have taken the job before the deal was struck, if he believed that it would be struck.

Their view is that he was brought in to toughen Israel's bargaining position to such an extent that it would be hard to make a bargain. If one emerges after all, it will be the least of all evils from Israel's point of view. Moreover, if the deal has Sharon's seal of

approval, it would be less likely for a right-wing rebellion to bring down the coalition. Even those most implacably opposed to the Oslo process can't help but breathe easier, knowing that the ultimately important final-status agreement will be negotiated by Sharon. Even on the far Right there are those who see the second redeployment as inevitable, and regard the final-status talks as the crucial test.

They will be less likely to balk with Sharon at the helm of that process. And, obviously, Sharon will not be sniping at Netanyahu from the sidelines.

THERE remains the possibility that despite whatever understanding Netanyahu and Sharon had reached, each really harbors different expectations from the appointment. Netanyahu may believe he needs Sharon involved to wow the Americans with the toughest of all Israeli negotiators, but in the end he plans to tie that bargainer to whatever bargain may result. The right wing will either blame Sharon or be comforted by him, sparing Netanyahu a potentially fatal political injury.

Conversely, it may be that Sharon has agreed to come in at this stage to do all he can to preempt what he would view as a disastrous deal, perhaps hoping that he can prevent any deal at all.

We may have a case of "two gamblers making contradictory bets," said one senior minister, who went on to predict that "we are in for interesting times."

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Women push the halachic envelope

It is common at conferences attended by a large number of religious participants for the men to gather in the late afternoon in a side room or a far corner of some hall for *mincha* (afternoon prayers).

What is rare at these conferences is for the women to also take part in these prayers. What is rarer still is for one of the women who did pray to castigate other females for not joining in. And what is virtually unheard of is for the women – once the davening ends and the conferencing resumes – to take the microphone and publicly criticize the way the men prayed.

That all four occurrences took place at a conference of religious leaders Tuesday at Kibbutz Ramat Rahel revealed much about the nature, and content, of the conference.

The conference, billed as a new look at Religious Zionism and Modern Orthodoxy, is part of an effort to forge a new moderate Orthodox voice.

to serve as a counterweight to what many believe is the increasing "hardening" of the religious-Zionist camp.

One of the major issues at the conference – sponsored by the Jewish Agency, Bar-Ilan University, Beit Morasha, Hakibbutz Hadati and the Israeli Alumni of Yeshiva University – was the role of women in the religious life of this community.

It was only natural at this conference, therefore, that Bila Admonit, a Jerusalem educator, castigated her fellow female participants for talking in lofty terms about a need for an expanded role for women in Jewish ritual, but not taking the trouble to daven *mincha*.

And it was equally natural at the conference for another female participant, Estie Rosenberg, a teacher at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem, to take the men to task both for not ensuring there would be a respectable area for the women to pray, and for not taking the time to pray in a proper

manner themselves. Admonit and Rosenberg's admonishments encapsulated a perceptible current in the Modern Orthodox world – a demand from women for new answers to their spiritual needs, and a willingness to challenge male attitudes to ritual, especially ritual that excludes women.

This current is perceptible in the increasing number of Modern Orthodox women demanding to dance with a Torah scroll on Simhat Torah, preferring women's minyanim on Purim, saying kaddish, and taking the lulav and etrog to synagogue on Succot.

It is a current that gained some strength over the summer with the establishment of the Religious Women's Forum, a group of Modern Orthodox women intent on raising the awareness of the role women can play in religious life, and working to get them more involved.

'We are not saying break the system. We want the system to change'

– Rachel Levmore, of Religious Women's Forum

As political questions about peace and territory reach some kind of denouement, other issues will be thrust to the head of the religious-Zionist agenda.

While it is easy at academic conferences to mistake what the "intellectual elite" are saying for what "regular folk" are actually doing, one rabbi at the conference who did not want to be quoted said that the women's issue is today the central issue on the Modern Orthodox agenda, and if it is not handled with care, could lead to a split in the Modern Orthodox world.

ONE WOMAN who is not overly afraid of a split over the issues is Rivka Lubitch, a 38-year-old mother of three from Kibbutz Nir Etzion.

Lubitch, who has a BA from the Jerusalem College for Women and an MA from Bar-Ilan University, is currently studying at Bar-Ilan to become a religious-court advocate. She said the time has come to push the boundaries of Halacha on what is and is not permitted to

A major issue at a conference this week on Modern Orthodoxy was the role of women in that community's religious life. Herb Keinon spoke to women who believe that accommodations to women's changing needs are inevitable



Rivka Lubitch speaking at the conference on Religious Zionism and Modern Orthodoxy: 'In my Judaism – Orthodox, religious, Zionist – the status of woman, in a word, is bad.' (Noam Haasi)

women. And if a schism results inside the community, she said, so be it.

"A split doesn't scare me," Lubitch said, in an interview at Kibbutz Lavi, where the conference moved for its second and third day. "Why do I have to be on the sidelines and look in?"

According to Lubitch, whose soft-spoken manner belies how passionate she feels about the

issue, "in every generation there are issues that are so important that first you make a breakthrough, and then ask if it is okay."

"There are women I know who are Orthodox in every way, and ask rabbis questions on every issue," but this one [women's issues]. It is so close to their heart that they are willing to pioneer a breakthrough – not only

stretch the Halacha, but actually go beyond it."

Lubitch anticipates the next question: If women take it upon themselves to go beyond Halacha on this issue, how are they different from the Conservative and Reform movements that have chosen to go beyond Halacha on other issues?

"If women preserve the boundaries on every issue but this one, and go a little beyond it here, we will remain in the Orthodox camp," she said. "If we go beyond the boundaries in every area, that is a different story."

Lubitch, in her speech to the conference, said that one of the outgrowths of a boom in Israel in recent years in yeshivot for women, will be the creation of a women's religious leadership. It is only a matter of time, she said, before there will be women who are accepted as halachic arbiters, more female rabbinic court advocates who will make their voice heard on issues of marriage and divorce, and more Orthodox women on the country's religious councils.

It is likely, Lubitch said, that women will be more independent in their halachic decisions,

because they did not grow up in the world of yeshivot, and do not hold allegiance to one rabbi or the other.

While it may be painful and difficult for some rabbis to go beyond what their own rabbis rule on matters pertaining to women, Lubitch said that for her it is much less painful or difficult.

LUBITCH is blunt in her description of the status of women in Orthodoxy today.

"In my Judaism – Orthodox, religious, Zionist – the status of woman is not good," she told the conference. "In a word, it is bad."

Lubitch said women are irrelevant to the existence of Judaism.

By contrast, she said, the Torah could not exist without men.

In a make-believe world, in which all the inhabitants are women, Lubitch said there would be no tallit, no tefillin, no mezuzot, no shofar, no lulav and etrog, and, according to some authorities, no Haggada. Whereas if there were only men in the world, Judaism would not look much different than it does today.

The more women become stricter and more meticulous in their observance, the more the gaps loom larger, she said.

"There is no way that I cannot be frustrated by this," she said.

Lubitch's willingness to go beyond the Halacha on this issue was not universally accepted at the conference.

"I feel her pain," said Rabbi Jeffrey Woolf, a lecturer in Talmud at Bar-Ilan. "More can be done, but the Torah cannot satisfy everything."

"I would hope she would not break through the Halacha," Woolf said. What is needed is a look for satisfying and fulfilling forms of expression within normative rabbinic Judaism – which he insists do exist.

Although not everyone identifies with her feeling, Lubitch said more and more people are coming around to her way of thinking – a result, she said, of a feminism that has swept the West, and the dramatic increase in the number of women studying Torah.

Neither Lubitch, nor the Religious Women's Forum, spell out exactly what changes they want to see for women in Jewish ritual. She has no agenda that demands women be called up to the Torah, don tefillin, or wear tzitzit.

Lubitch said that among Orthodox feminists there are two schools of thought on the issue: one that wants women to do just as the men do, and another that feels women should create new outlets of their own, such as, for example, the women's readings of Megillat Esther on Purim,

which have increased over the years.

"I don't feel pressure to have to answer that right now," Lubitch replied when asked what roles she wants to see for women in the synagogue.

She said that question will be worked out over time, as different forms of involvement are gradually experimented with.

RACHEL Levmore, a rabbinic court advocate from Efrat, who is also involved in the Religious Women's Forum, said her overall desire is for "women to be respected and have the opportunity to express themselves through the ritual in a way that they can find fulfillment, all within the guidelines of Halacha."

Levmore, who said that the advent of women rabbinic court advocates in the early 1990s has given a dramatic push to Orthodox feminism, said change in ritual will come when women feel a "true need" to participate in one ritual or the other.

Women's megilla readings on Purim, she said, were born of a true religious need felt by many women. The same, she said, is true of some women demanding the right to say kaddish in public, just as the men do.

The community should accept change when it emanates from a true need," she said, "as opposed to when it is done just as a revolutionary act or to antagonize."

To illustrate the difference, Levmore pointed to women dancing on Simhat Torah, something which is not the norm in Israel, even when done behind a *mechitza* (partition).

"For women to sit and watch the men dance is a waste of time," she said. "If a woman wants to dance to express her happiness, or if a young girl wants to dance with her grandmother, that is one thing. If they want to dance just to show the men that they can do it too, that is something else."

That Modern Orthodox women are dealing with questions such as the recitation of kaddish, reading from the megilla, or even opening up the curtains of the *mechitza* to hear a rabbi's sermon may seem trivial at a time when women are officiating as rabbis in Conservative and Reform congregations around the world. But the changes are significant for women who want to work within the halachic framework.

"We are not saying break the system," Levmore said, "but want the system to change."

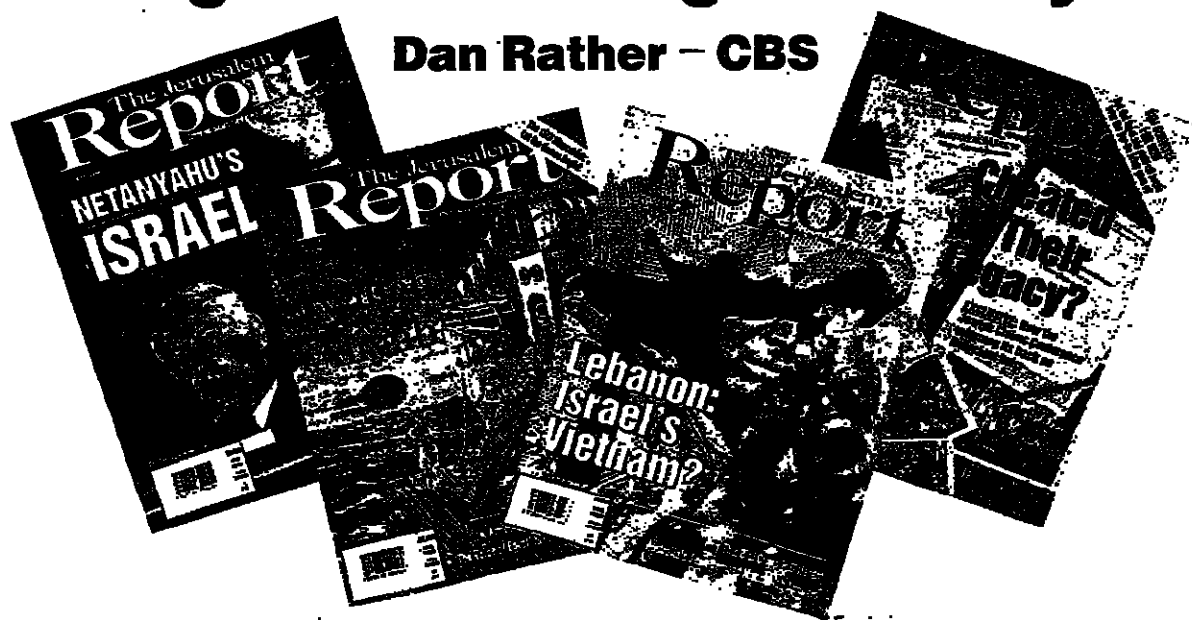
This change is inevitable, she said, as more and more women feel a need and demand it. As this happens, the rabbis will have no choice but to give it their halachic stamp of approval.

This process, as Lubitch and Levmore attest, is well under way.

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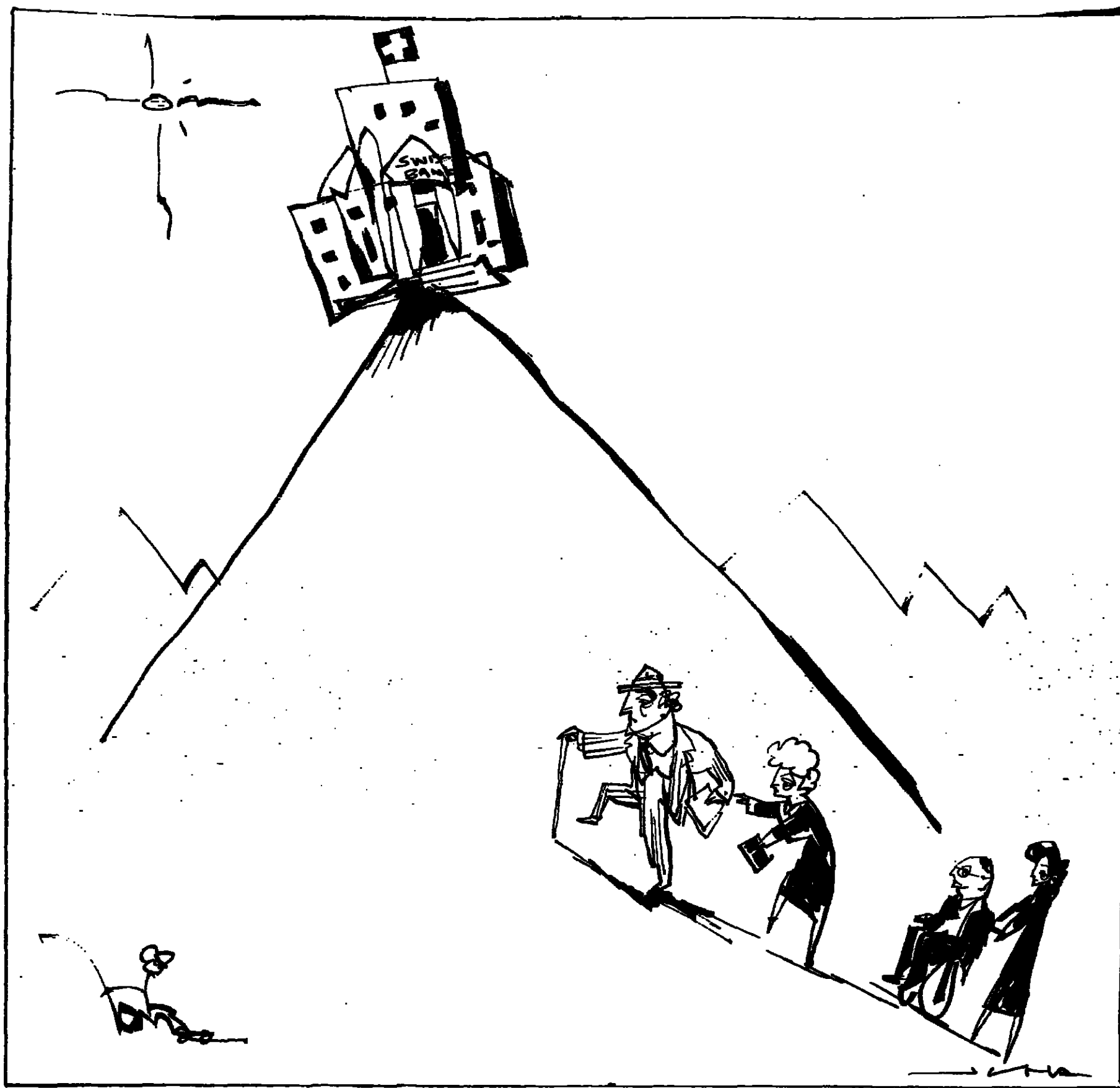
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סוף האל



Desperately vying for a piece of the pie

Bracha Alon is certain that her uncle, Shaye Heinrich, had money in a Swiss bank and that he was trying to give her a suitcase filled with documents when they were brutally separated by a soldier in Romania during World War II.

"I am convinced that it was money and papers, but someone destroyed that," Alon, now of Acre, wrote last month to US District Judge Edward Korman in New York.

"He told me that he had put a lot of money in a bank in Switzerland," she continued. "He said to me all the time, 'My dear child, you will be rich, very rich.' Her uncle and other family members perished."

"I have three children," wrote Alon, who came to Israel in 1944. "One son is ill. He served in the army for three years. I want to help him before it's too late. I wait for your answer and your help."

Letters of advice and appeals like Alon's are pouring into the federal courthouse in Brooklyn, where Korman must approve the \$1.25 billion settlement of the class-action lawsuits against UBS and Credit Suisse, the major Swiss commercial banks.

Though the \$1.25b. Swiss bank settlement on Holocaust-era assets was announced in August, the issue is far from settled. Marilyn Henry reports on the convoluted attempts to sort out who will get the money – and who will distribute it

Although the settlement was first announced in August, it is far from final. Approval of the settlement is dependent on the drawing-up of a distribution agreement, and there is no telling how long this will take.

Public forums to solicit comments on the distribution of the funds are to be held at some unspecified future dates in Israel, the US, Europe, South America and Australia, the survivors' New York lawyers have said.

But many survivors are not waiting for these events. Instead, they are writing directly to Korman, delivering conflicting and often-insistent advice about the allocation of the settlement funds, or imploring the judge to come to their immediate aid.

Reinhold Wotawa, an Austrian-born survivor, now destitute in

Berkshire, New York, begged Korman to help "before I starve to death or fall victim to an accident."

He also complained to the judge that "the needy will be bullied" by wealthy Jewish organizations who excluded needy victims from the negotiations with the banks.

That complaint is echoed by Gizella Weisshaus of Brooklyn, who in October 1996 filed the original class-action suit against the banks.

Weisshaus has grievances against her original lawyer, Ed Fagan, virtually all Jewish organizations, and the Satmar hassidic community, of which she is a member and which filed its own suit against the Swiss banks.

Along with a number of other survivors, Weisshaus has generated a proposal calling for at least

70 percent of the funds to be distributed directly to survivors and heirs, while 25% of the settlement would be used for medical care for ill survivors.

THE Weisshaus group – that is, those survivors who agree with her plan for distribution – also is vehement that the World Jewish Congress and the Claims Conference, should have no role in the allocation, and that they receive none of the funds.

Yet others have thrown their support to the WJC and the World Jewish Restitution Organization, whose members include the major Israeli and American survivor groups, and who are responsible for the distribution of the SFR 270 million Swiss humanitarian fund for needy Nazi victims.

The beleaguered Swiss humanitarian fund appears to loom large in the recommendations of some American survivor groups.

Representing the Holocaust Child Survivors Group of Los Angeles, Leon Stabinsky told Korman that the banks settlement should follow the model of the Swiss humanitarian fund.

"Only in this manner will justice for survivors be served," he wrote.

Such a prospect, however, makes other survivors howl because the distribution of the humanitarian fund, which was established in March 1997, has moved at a snail's pace.

Further, in the US, the \$32m. portion allocated for American survivors shows every sign of being frittered into meaningless amounts.

The primary survivor organization in the US, the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, declined to impose a needs test for potential beneficiaries of the humanitarian fund. Instead, it determined that the \$32m. should be divided into equal shares based on the number of applicants.

Since the US applications became available on August 17,

more than 90,000 individuals – of all income levels – have requested them. If that trend continues until the November deadline, survivors would receive no more than a few hundred dollars each.

That prospect led Nahos, the National Association of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors, to issue a public appeal for most survivors to resist applying for the humanitarian fund.

"Anyone who is not truly indigent and manages to draw from this fund will not be taking money from the Swiss or the Germans," Nahos said in its latest newsletter. "That individual would be taking away financial aid from impoverished survivors."

It called on survivors "to act responsibly and decently and not make unjustified claims."

Korman must decide on a multi-tiered settlement in which as-yet-unknown categories of survivors will benefit, in which survivors' heirs may be eligible, and in which compensation is expected to vary for different kinds of claims and losses.

THE ISSUE began nearly three years ago specifically to recover dormant and unclaimed accounts in Swiss banks, which were accused of hoarding Holocaust-era assets. However, it since mushroomed into a case of Swiss behavior during World War II.

In a public letter issued late last month, the American lawyers who filed the lawsuits in Korman's court described the settlement by saying: "Swiss private banks will pay \$1.25b. to settle legal claims arising from the conduct of the Swiss government and Swiss industrial companies during and after World War II."

The potential claimants, these lawyers say, include "everyone whose interests were injured by the conduct of the Swiss."

But, among the survivors, there are wildly disparate views about who should benefit from the Swiss bank settlement.

The Weisshaus group would restrict the beneficiaries to Jews and adamantly rejects, for example, the inclusion of the Roma (Gypsies).

However, lawyers for other plaintiffs have made clear that non-Jewish Nazi victims also may benefit. They filed Roma representatives to a recent meeting in New York, where survivors groups and Jewish organizations discussed numerous possible options for the allocation of the settlement.

Though Weisshaus may have some public prestige as the original plaintiff, she has no preferential status in the class-action suits. Korman will ultimately determine the weight due her group's proposal.

Thus far, there appears to be virtually no significant survivor sentiment favoring organizations as beneficiaries, which often is mixed with criticism of the organizations – although none yet seems as harsh or specific as that of the Weisshaus group.

Paul Frenkel, a survivor in New Preston, Connecticut, said he was "disappointed" with the settlement, because it "is estimated to represent only approximately 5% of the banks' obligation."

Further, Frenkel wrote: "Those who have not been through the camps have their own agenda and jargon that is mostly ineffective in providing closure to the survivors and a truly just resolution of the issues."

Charitable organizations, however worthy, should not benefit from the settlement, Barbara Schwartz Lee, a survivor from Los Angeles, wrote to Korman.

"While I support the work of many of these organizations, they are not the parties who suffered the atrocities of the Holocaust," she wrote. "And more importantly, their receipt of funds would do nothing to compensate survivors whose assets were stolen by the Swiss banks."

If there is to be charity, it should be determined by the survivors, who should benefit from the Swiss bank settlement "no matter what their financial needs are," wrote Henry Friedman, chairman of a survivors and second-generation group in Seattle.

"Holocaust survivors have proved themselves to be most charitable people," Friedman wrote. "Let each one of them have the pleasure of deciding how they want to spend the money that they so justly deserve."

STILL another issue Korman will have to consider will be the conclusions of the Volcker Committee, which is continuing with its audit of Holocaust-era accounts in the Swiss banks.

The audit, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, is still the only procedure that is aimed at establishing a direct connection between specific accounts and specific individuals (the original depositors or their heirs).

These conclusions will be an important component of any settlement.

THE attorneys' fees also have been a bone of contention among some survivors, and the WJC has said it objects to any legal fees beyond reimbursement for expenses.

A number of lawyers have said they would handle the cases pro bono, while others are seeking fees. The fees will be determined by Korman but, in the meantime, much of the public debate has been disingenuous.

A number of high-profile firms, like those of New York lawyer Melvyn Weiss and Washington attorney Michael Hausfeld, have large cash reserves from previous litigation that allow them to underwrite pro-bono legal work. Such firms also may have direct or indirect benefactors, who are eager to assist with legal expenses and research in such a high-profile and historically significant case.

However, there are some smaller cash-poor law firms who were highly visible players in the case, such as Fagan, who filed the original Weisshaus suit. The small firms clearly were unprepared for the research and expenses of the lawsuits, and gambled on the outcome. These lawyers signed up clients who were willing to share any future award with their advocates.

According to the Weisshaus group's proposal to Korman, attorneys' fees are permissible, but should be "limited to modest hourly rates."

But it also offered a bizarre twist in one of the many muddled aspects of the issue: The group insists that half of the fee to Fagan, the original lawyer, go directly to the establishment of a school for autistic children, which the group contends Fagan promised to Weisshaus "in honor of her organization of, and thousands of hours of efforts on, the case."

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Forget the big projects

Steve Rodan takes a look at Israeli-Arab/Palestinian business and finds far less of it than industrialists would like everyone to believe

Just last year, Gil Feiler was pressing flesh with top businessmen in the Gulf as a member of a British delegation to Qatar. For Feiler, a leading Israeli researcher, this was a Kodak moment and he asked to be photographed with a leading Qatar sheikh.

No problem, said the sheikh. But a few minutes later, the Arab businessman got word that Feiler was an Israeli and he returned asking what would be done with the photograph. Feiler, who is fluent in Arabic, assured him it was just a memento.

Then, an Arab ambassador and friend of the sheikh approached. He politely asked Feiler for his camera and promised to return with all the photographs he shot – except for that of the sheikh.

At that point, Feiler gave up. "I told him there was no need for that," he recalls. "I took out the roll of film and gave it to him."

Israel and the Palestinians may soon reach an agreement in the West Bank. But that might be too late for Israelis to form business ties in the Arab world.

These days, with few exceptions, Arab investors and industrialists are simply too scared to be seen with Israelis, let alone do business with them. The Qatar conference last October could be the last time Arab and Israeli businessmen meet in an exclusive forum. Organizers canceled the Middle East business conference for 1998, saying no Arab country would serve as host. But even far more modest forums have proved disappointing.

Despite efforts by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

staff and officials from other ministries, the business conference this past week in Jerusalem hosted only a handful of businessmen from the Arab world.

"The motivation for Arabs to do business with Israelis is very low," says Feiler, a partner in the Ramat Gan-based Info-Prod Research Ltd., a leading research company on Middle East business. "Very few deals have been made. Many Arabs, even if they want to meet with Israelis, don't dare to."

Feiler, a senior research associate at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, dismisses the estimates of hundreds of millions of dollars of annual trade between Israel and the Arab world that have been bandied about by Israeli industrialists. He says those claims were baseless – made by people who sought to portray every attempt at a deal as successful.

A consultant to such Western giants as Daimler-Benz, L'Oréal, the United Nations and World Bank, Feiler also rejects assertions that huge business deals are done with the Arab world through third parties.

"Why would a US or European company do business with Israel in the Arab world?" asks Feiler, whose company manages the largest database on the region. "They will do it themselves. Only

if the Israelis can present something that these companies need and don't have will the Israelis be taken. With the presence of a European or American prime contractor, the Arabs will not look too closely."

These days, with few exceptions, Arab investors are too scared to be seen with Israelis, let alone do business with them

Feiler's partner in Info-Prod is Muzi Wertheim, the president of Coca-Cola Israel and principal shareholder in Bank Mizrahi. Wertheim is largely interested in trade with the Palestinians. He wants to sell them soft drinks and other products.

IT'S A tenuous situation. During the Palestinian uprising – from

1987 until 1993 – business dropped until it was only a quarter of previous sales. Coca-Cola was boycotted along with other products from Israel.

Wertheim saw the Oslo Agreements and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority as the turning point. Suddenly, Israel and the Palestinians were bound by a signed agreement of economic cooperation.

Free trade was in; Europe and the US pledged billions of dollars; investment was bound to follow.

It's been a disappointment. "The area is not stable," Wertheim says. "But there are dozens, if not hundreds of projects in the pipeline."

Gershon Baskin, director of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information, says the Palestinian Authority is following the lead of Arab governments in ending their support of Arab-Israeli business partnerships. Baskin says Palestinians and Israelis still engage in joint ventures but the volume of business is small.

"The general public opinion of the [Palestinian] Authority toward business is discouraging, similar to its attitude to people-to-people projects," Baskin says. "They are opposed to anything that can lead to normalization." The exception is Jordan. The

Hashemite kingdom, analysts and industry sources say, continues to encourage joint ventures with Israel. Indeed, most, if not all, of the Arabs participating in the Jerusalem conference came from Jordan.

In contrast, business between Israel and Egypt has dropped sharply, although several major projects remain – particularly in the fields of textiles and oil.

The timing of the drop-off is particularly bad for Israel. For the first time, the Arab world is opening up to foreign investment. Egypt, Jordan and Morocco are encouraging investment and liberalization and their stock markets are regarded as one of the best investments in the developing world.

Feiler says Israel will have to wait before it is invited to play.

He also plays down expectations that international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund would give billions of dollars to the regional projects that Israel hoped to play a part in – water desalination, electricity generators or transportation.

In the end, Israel might have to be satisfied with the crumbs that escaped or were ignored by the huge multinational corporations operating in the Middle East.

This could mean small-sized joint ventures between Israel and the Palestinians, or between Israel and Jordanian or Egyptian companies.

"This is not the time [for major Israeli involvement]," Feiler says. "The little projects of several million dollars are possible. Forget the big projects."

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Extreme leftist Charlie Biton (right) and staunch Pessah Grupper embraced each other at the Jubilee Business summit.

Largely a well-kept secret until its unveiling last week at the Israel Museum in honor of the 50th anniversary of the state, the private collection of Swiss art lovers Werner and Gabrielle Merzbacher elicited much praise. It was impossible for the huge crowd – which included Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak, former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin Shahak, Hebrew University Law Professor Yehuda Blum (currently on sabbatical), philanthropists Fred Worms and Gita Sherover, Council for a Beautiful Israel president Aura Herzog, her son Isaac and daughter-in-law Michal – to properly view the magnificent paintings. Those who stayed for the equally colorful dinner in the museum succa were invited by the museum director James Snyder to accompany Merzbacher back to the Weisbord Pavilion to look at the works again.

Henry Wyndham, chairman of Sotheby's Europe, cohosted the dinner together with Swiss ambassador Pierre Monod and his wife Ninette and noted that now that Merzbacher's walls are empty, he might be interested in Sotheby's upcoming art auction. At close to midnight, the collector himself guided a handful of people through *The Joy of Color*.

THE wearer of many organizational hats, Pessah Grupper was wearing that of World Eminent president when she invited a large assortment of Jerusalemites and visitors from abroad to her succa. Some 80 percent of the guests had Eminent affiliations. Among them was the chief rabbi of Moscow, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, who in addition to his native French speaks fluent Russian, English, Hebrew and Yiddish, all of which have been an asset to him in the post he has held since 1989. His wife Dara, who is involved in Jewish education, is about to launch Moscow's first Eminent branch. Also among the guests was Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who was asked, as he has been many times in recent weeks, to compare the Netanyahu-Arafat summit to Camp David. Espying Naftali Lavi, another Camp David veteran who, like himself, is a practitioner of Jewish tradition, Rubinstein recalled the time that they both were in the US over Succot to conduct talks with then secretary of state Cyrus Vance and had stopped off at a synagogue to pick up willows for their lulavim. Vance, according to Rubinstein, was much more intrigued by the lulav than in Israel-Egypt relations.

THE SECOND annual Succot reception for students of Nishmar's Keren Ariel Women's Institute of Jewish Family Law was hosted at the Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza by Moshe and Charlotte Green, who support numerous educational projects in Israel and the US. Dina Zimmerman, who was assistant professor of medicine at Rutgers University Medical School before settling in Israel two years ago, said that the program has enabled her to deal more effectively with women in crisis situations. The knowledge and understanding which she acquired in the program helps her to guide them in matters of Halacha as well as helping them medically, she said. The program was devised so that women who are too embarrassed to consult a rabbi in certain areas of Jewish family law will have another recourse. Only women with high academic qualifications are accepted for the course.

CONSIDERING that he was here for less than a week, and didn't go socially overboard, Al Pacino excited a tremendous amount of media attention. Here to shoot a couple of scenes for his new movie in which he plays a reporter who interviews a Hizbullah leader for the popular television program *60 Minutes*, Pacino was on location at Um el-Fahm. Pacino was accompanied by his good friend, Israeli journalist Dudu Halevi, who has been associated with many top-ranking publications including *Time* magazine.

ALSO at the JBS was German investor Alexander Tessler, the owner of the luxurious Princess Hotel in Eilat. Tessler was there to receive the Prime Minister's Award, but that was not the only reason for his being in Israel at this time. Tessler is celebrating the bat mitzva of his second daughter Shirley Faye Tessler with a 1920s-style Cotton Club affair staffed by 38 waiters as the climax of a week of celebrations. Tessler, who arrived in Israel last Sunday, brought 350 guests with him, among them bankers Richard Heuberger, Dr. Gerhard Nusslein and Peter Kerz, who are senior executives respectively with the Commerzbank, Hessische Landesbank and Hypovereitsbank.

BUSINESS

Continued from Page 1

Their staking out public positions for the past two years has been a constant, with each concerned with showing his constituency that "caving in" was not part of his vocabulary.

A senior administration official acknowledged as much afterward, downplaying the war of words as the leaders' putting on a "public face" one last time.

Pundits will no doubt interpret Netanyahu's and Arafat's behavior as the latest in a series of snubs inflicted on a grievously wounded president.

But this has turned out to be a good week for Clinton. First came

the agreement for a cessation of violence in Kosovo, however tenuous, brokered by his envoy, Richard Holbrooke. Then came yesterday's budget agreement with Congress, which Clinton announced from the same podium at which he stood with his Middle East guests.

And of course, he kicked off a weekend of peace-making with Netanyahu and Arafat.

Their requisite public pronouncements accomplished, Netanyahu and Arafat sped away in black limousines to the helicopters ferrying them to eastern Maryland.

Across Pennsylvania Avenue, in Lafayette Park, the ever-present, anti-war, anti-nuclear protesters carried on. One sign, proclaiming the site a Peace Park, said: "Wanted: Wisdom & Honesty."

LOGJAM

Continued from Page 1

Arafat stated that he had received assurances from the administration that an understanding regarding the third and final redeployment must be part of the interim accord being negotiated. Arafat said he is "as optimistic as always" and prepared to stay as long as it takes to achieve an agreement, but Netanyahu said he would only remain until Monday so he can open the Knesset session on Tuesday. He said he is willing to return if necessary.

"We come with the best intentions. We hope there will be an accord," Netanyahu said. "If we're asked to give additional territory, we have to assure that that ter-

ritory will not become a base and a haven for terrorists to attack us."

Clinton called on the two leaders to see each other "with mutual respect and understanding," because otherwise "there can be no honorable, principled compromise."

"As in any difficult problem, neither side can expect to win 100% of every point, but concessions that seem hard now will seem far less important in the light of an accord that moves Israelis and Palestinians closer to lasting peace, closer to a day where the people of Israel can have the safety and security they have been denied for too long, closer to the day when the Palestinian people can realize their aspirations to be free and secure, and able to shape their own political and economic destinies," Clinton said.

Netanyahu reiterated that Israel would be willing to make the promised redeployment, if and when the Palestinians commit themselves to fulfilling the security demands being made of them. "We are all taking risks, but I am not willing to take an uncalculated risk," he added.

Fighting terrorism, conceded Arafat, is of supreme importance, but terror is not to be equated solely with Palestinian terror. "The world is witness to our fight against terror," said the chairman. "But I must

remind you that some of the extremist gangsters have killed my partner [Yitzhak] Rabin," and that, before turning to the Palestinians with demands, the Israelis would have to arrest the "settlers who have killed Palestinian women and children."

After the brief White House ceremony, the sides set off to Wye Plantation, where they are scheduled to spend the weekend away from the public eye. Bilateral meetings between Arafat, Netanyahu, Clinton, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright were to begin early yesterday evening.

"There is hard work ahead if we are to reach an agreement... Our entire team [is] ready to do whatever we can. We are ready to get to work," Clinton told the opening session at Wye Plantation.

The delegations sat along three sides of a large room, the Americans in the center, the Israelis and Palestinians to each side. Clinton said all parties would limit their contacts with the media. "All of us are determined to keep our energies focused on the talks themselves. Therefore we have agreed to confine our dealings with the media... to periodic briefings to be conducted by spokespersons," he said.

Ariel O'Sullivan and news agencies contributed to this report.

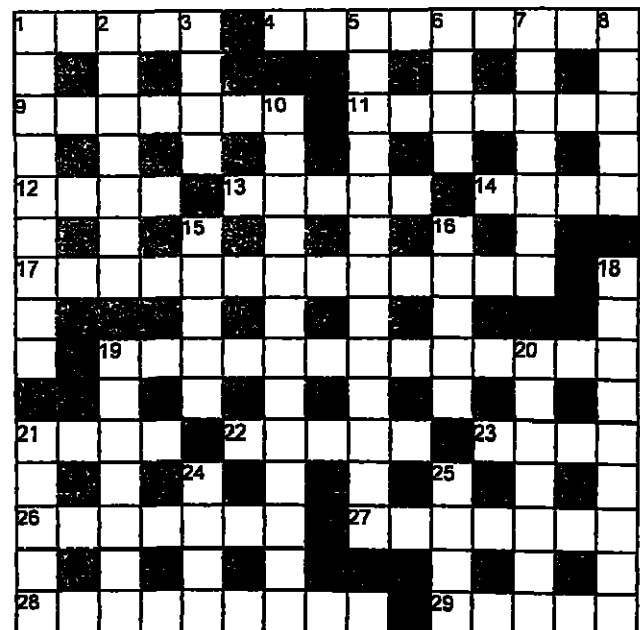
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Could be one way to aerate the soil (5)
- 4 Local worker finds lawyers sensitive (9)
- 9 Making bequests is agreeable (7)
- 11 Fruit and nuts (7)
- 12 Managed to shelter old horse (4)
- 13 Lovely nymph appearing by 1.00 am (6)
- 14 Disheartened theatre attendant becomes an addict (4)
- 17 Succeeded in having a private road laid (3,4,3,3)
- 19 Fulfilling order to clap his coming (13)
- 21 Dog food (4)
- 22 Audacious attempt to see if the cap fits (3-2)

DOWN

- 2 Utterly frank (9)
- 3 Irritate worker with a valiant nature (7)
- 3 That's smart decorative edging (4)
- 5 King ordered all power to be held by PM (6,7)
- 6 A woman from the United Nations (4)



SOLUTIONS

- 7 Measure backed by unpleasant ruling family (7)
- 8 One getting up in mid-flight? (5)
- 10 Morgan's aid to a distressed humanitarian (4,9)
- 15 Censure strike (5)
- 16 Small desire to be fashionable (5)
- 18 Trifle with lovely lady carrying a revolver (9)
- 19 A refusal by the monarch is different (7)
- 20 One northern cattle station vulnerable to gunmen (2,6)
- 21 Reticent chap gets money from vice (6)
- 24 Stunner of a meal (4)
- 25 Its wares sell out (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Extols (6)
- 4 Collect (6)
- 9 Disproved (7)
- 10 Vision (5)
- 11 Charges paid (4)
- 12 Declamation (7)
- 13 Decay (3)
- 14 Yawn (4)
- 16 Musical finale (4)
- 18 Snooker stick (3)
- 20 Trelis walkway (7)
- 21 Archaic "you" (4)
- 24 The Hunter (5)
- 25 Page (7)
- 26 Sawage (6)
- 27 Corroded (5)

DOWN

- 1 Voice-box (6)
- 2 Unsubtle (5)
- 3 Glut (4)
- 5 Luminosity (8)
- 6 Submitted (7)
- 7 Distant (6)
- 8 Expert (5)
- 13 Disclaim (8)
- 15 Formally charge (7)
- 17 Self-possession (7)
- 18 Andalusian port (6)
- 19 Culpable (6)
- 22 Dis (5)
- 23 At a distance (4)

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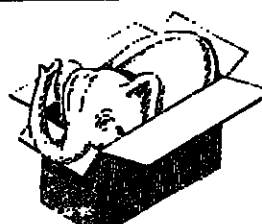
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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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SALES

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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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OLD KATAMON, 2 + 7, elevator, view, balcony, storeroom, ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161. [68]

DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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E-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

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DWELLINGS Sharon Area

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SALES

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THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA), a subsidiary organ of the UNITED NATIONS, is inviting potential and officially registered sea, airport and land border crossing clearing agents to bid for cargo clearance and inland transport from Israeli ports, airports and land and border crossings to and from our warehouses in Jerusalem and Gaza.

The Agency intends to award a contract for a potential fully equipped agent, registered with the Israeli or the Palestinian Authority Chamber of Commerce, who possesses the capacity and the necessary licenses and/or approval of the relevant Authorities to fulfill the outlined requirements of UNRWA.

A copy of the Authorities' licenses and/or approvals must be presented upon collecting the tender documents.

The tender documents are available for collection at the following address:
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UNRWA Field Office, Jerusalem
Sh. Z. Shragal Street
Givat Hahaim
Telephone 02-589-0555 or 02-589-0576
Facsimile 02-581-6564

Please be advised that the deadline for collecting the tender documents is set for 12 noon local Jerusalem time on Monday, October 26, 1998.

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OFFICE STAFF

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GENERAL

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OFFICE STAFF

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GENERAL

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OFFICE STAFF

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OFFICE STAFF

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SITUATIONS WANTED Dan Region

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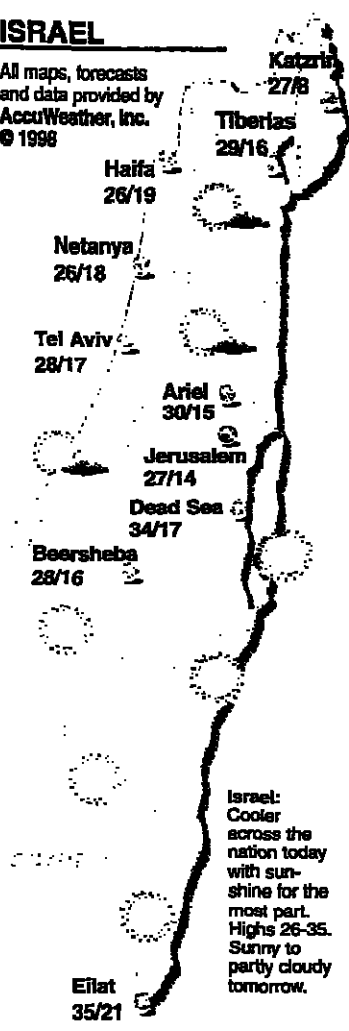
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ISRAEL

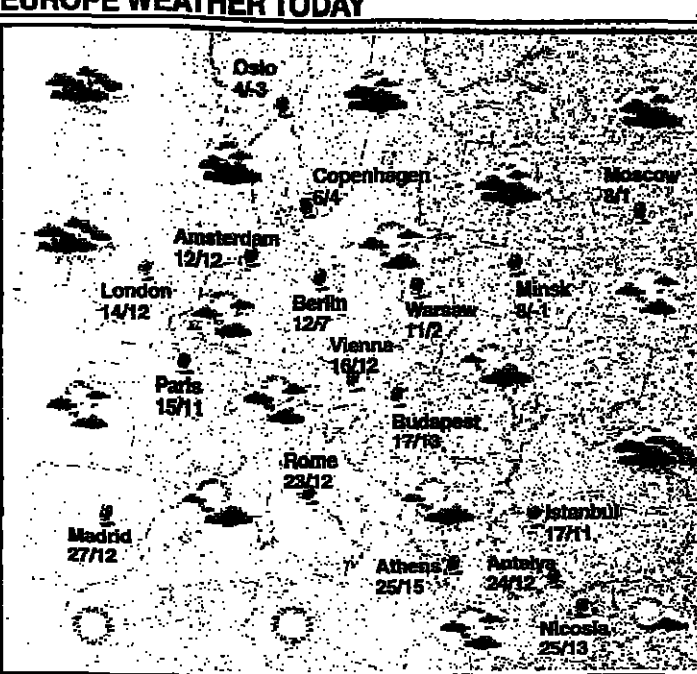
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Netanya 26/18
Tel Aviv 28/17
Jerusalem 27/14
Dead Sea 34/17
Beersheba 28/16
Eilat 35/21

Israel: Cooler across the nation today with sun-shine for the most part. Highs 26-35. Sunny to partly cloudy tomorrow.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High	Today Low	Saturday High	Saturday Low	Sunday High	Sunday Low	Monday High	Monday Low
Ariel	30/16	15/5	30/16	15/5	30/16	15/5	30/16	15/5
Beersheba	28/16	16/1	28/16	16/1	28/16	16/1	28/16	16/1
Dead Sea	34/17	17/2	34/17	17/2	34/17	17/2	34/17	17/2
Eilat	35/21	21/7	35/21	21/7	35/21	21/7	35/21	21/7
Jerusalem	27/14	18/6	27/14	18/6	27/14	18/6	27/14	18/6
Netanya	26/18	18/4	26/18	18/4	26/18	18/4	26/18	18/4
Tel Aviv	28/17	18/4	28/17	18/4	28/17	18/4	28/17	18/4
Tiberias	29/14	16/1	29/14	16/1	29/14	16/1	29/14	16/1

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, drizzle, fog, snow, ice.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High	Today Low	Saturday High	Saturday Low	Sunday High	Sunday Low
Amsterdam	12/5	12/5	12/5	12/5	12/5	12/5
Beijing	23/7	9/0	23/7	9/0	23/7	9/0
Berlin	12/3	7/4	12/3	7/4	12/3	7/4
Brussels	13/5	12/3	13/5	12/3	13/5	12/3
Calgary	22/7	13/5	22/7	13/5	22/7	13/5
Chicago	10/5	9/4	10/5	9/4	10/5	9/4
Hong Kong	27/18	23/7	27/18	23/7	27/18	23/7
London	14/5	12/3	14/5	12/3	14/5	12/3
Los Angeles	27/18	16/1	27/18	16/1	27/18	16/1
Madrid	27/18	12/3	27/18	12/3	27/18	12/3
Mexico City	24/7	13/5	24/7	13/5	24/7	13/5
Moscow	13/5	9/4	13/5	9/4	13/5	9/4
Munich	9/4	13/5	9/4	13/5	9/4	13/5
New York	19/6	11/2	19/6	11/2	19/6	11/2
Paris	15/9	11/2	15/9	11/2	15/9	11/2
Prague	9/4	8/4	9/4	8/4	9/4	8/4
Rio de Janeiro	29/18	23/7	29/18	23/7	29/18	23/7
Rome	23/7	12/3	23/7	12/3	23/7	12/3
Sydney	22/7	14/5	22/7	14/5	22/7	14/5
Tokyo	27/18	23/7	27/18	23/7	27/18	23/7
Toronto	18/4	10/5	18/4	10/5	18/4	10/5
Vancouver	19/6	12/3	19/6	12/3	19/6	12/3
Washington	11/2	9/4	11/2	9/4	11/2	9/4
Zurich	16/1	9/4	16/1	9/4	16/1	9/4

Your help makes a difference

Every day requests of help come from Israel's network of social workers and concerned individuals.

Although we're not able, through lack of funds, to respond to every request, the generous contributions by our readers and friends make sure most calls for help do not go unanswered. Your help inspires us daily. Now, at the end of the holiday season, we are opening almost a week's worth of mail. As we open the envelopes, we are pleased to note that the checks are making a much larger pile than the requests. We hope, that as we add it all up, the checks will match the requests, even though experience tells us that might not be so.

Every dollar, shekel, pound or mark is put to good use, so don't be shy about the amount you send. Every contribution is welcome.

As our 50th anniversary comes into sight, the department is a hive of activity. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our jubilee charity dinner at the Bible Lands Museum on November 17. Tickets are available at NIS 375 each and are tax deductible.

Please rush your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. We (Ilie Feldman, Judy Aminoff and Debi Rubin) can be reached by tele-

phone at (02) 537-6528 if you wish to make a VISA credit card donation or if you have any queries.

Donors living in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 270 Lafayette St., Suite 505, New York, NY 10012. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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By ILIE FELDMAN

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NIS 300 Anon., Patah Tikva.
NIS 300 Rita and Adi Singer, Tel Aviv. In loving memory of my husband Felix Lagnado - Clara Lagnado, J'm.
NIS 180 In loving memory of my father Z.D. - M.S.
NIS 124 In loving memory of Debora van Sonderen-de Wilde - E.V.S.
NIS 120 Drs. Yakov and Roberta Epstein, Ma'aleh Adumim. In memory of my parents Ada and Bennett Telf - Elizabeth Segal, Kiryat Anon., Haifa.
NIS 100 Marcus and Inbal Shiff, Netanya. In gratitude for Mrs. M. Bolle - A.P., J'm. Smasher, Patah Tikva, Sarah Solivay, Ramat Yohanan.
NIS 80 For Mikki. Happy 80th; you've made a career of being the best friend your friends could have! - love, Stephen and

Faith.
NIS 75 In appreciation of Beverlee Black - Anon., J'm.
NIS 50 Esther and David Lerner, Ramot Shalom, Ma'agen, Kibbutz Lavie.
NIS 36 In memory of Michael P. Schmidt - Gila Sharon, Tel Aviv. In memory of my grandparents, Barshava and Yona Torgow z"l, and Sarah Rivkah and Menashe Salenger z"l - S. Polak, Givatayim.
NIS 30 Eva Sordren, J'm.
NIS 18 In memory of my parents, Malka and Nahum Torgow z"l - S. Polak, Givatayim.
NIS 200 In memory of my wife, Bernarda Alday - Nemesis Alday, Cleveland, Ida and Roberto Neier, Buenos Aires.
NIS 180 Lisa and A.D. Maclin, Givat Shimon.
NIS 90 Anon., London, Anon., France.
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NIS 410 In memory of our parents, Rev. and Mrs. P. Herman of Manchester and Rita and Gabriel Dinerstein, Tel Aviv.
NIS 100 Heinz Wildersin, W. Germany.
New Donations: NIS 6,293
Total: \$726 \$49,624 (other currencies converted to shekels)

NIS 100 Smasher, Patah Tikva, Menashe and Sima Block, Givatayim.
NIS 90 In honor of 50th Anniversary - Anon., J'm.
NIS 90 Hilda Levin, Guy and Na'ama Levin and Orr and Tal Newman, Rehovot.
NIS 76 Henri bat Elka Pesah, Kfar Sava.
NIS 50 In memory of my beloved husband, David, on the second year of his passing - Nancy Fournier, Haifa.
NIS 36 Anon., Yokneam Illit. In memory of all my deceased aunts and uncles on my mother's side - S. Polak, Givatayim.
NIS 27.50 From an anonymous piggie bank!
NIS 24 Kaparo's money from Dana, Talpiot.
NIS 555 Tzedaka collected by the three- to five-year-old children of the Pitham Jewish Center. Early Childhood Department, Pitham, NY.
NIS 54 Anon., Nashua, NH.
NIS 25 Q. and J. Carr, Howe, England.
NIS 110 In memory of our parents, Rev. and Mrs. M. Dinerstein of Manchester and Mr. and Mrs. P. Herman of London - Rita and Gabriel Dinerstein, Tel Aviv.
NIS 900 Jewish Christian Community of Asien, Germany.

Progress	Total
NIS 7,765	NIS 122,233
NIS 936	\$35,910
(other currencies converted to shekels)	

WELCOME HOME FUND

Progress	Total
NIS 936	NIS 37,227
NIS 936	\$17,102

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The seminar will take place on Monday, October 19, 1998 at 8:30 p.m. at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the Recanati Hall, 27 Shaul Hamelech St., Tel Aviv. Entrance free.

Advanced registration necessary.
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KATASH

Continued from Page 24

An out-of-form Oded Katash yesterday took part in his first organized basketball training session since winning the National League title with Maccabi Tel Aviv earlier this year when he trained with the national team.

Katash, who is currently on hold and cannot sign with the New York Knicks until the NBA lockout is resolved. The only basketball he has seen since leaving Israel has been some informal practice with New Jersey Nets star Jason Williams.

As the dispute in the NBA continues Katash has decided to concentrate on regaining match fitness. His best option appears to be a return to Maccabi Tel Aviv, with whom he is still registered as a player.

But despite this, there are still quite a few obstacles which must be overcome if he is to be able to return to Maccabi. "Nothing has been sealed yet as we have some professional and financial matters to resolve," Katash told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

Both Maccabi Tel Aviv and Katash are aware of the fact that the return will be on a short term basis, but because of the irregular situation a deal between the two parties is problematic. "Maccabi have to take care of themselves and so should I," he continued.

He feels a bit unlucky with the problems concerning his move to the NBA, but adds: "I was never one to complain about luck!"

National team coach Muli Katzurin, on the other hand, was in high spirits as one of his star players was available for a vital practice session. "I hope Katash stays here until our important games in November are over. Katash didn't even give me a chance to complete my sentence and tell him where the training session will take place as he asked me



Oded Katash (left) grapples with a teammate during a national team practice session in Ramat Gan last night.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

when should he turn up," Katzurin said.

"By the way Katash shook my hand I noticed that he has been spending time at the gym," Katzurin added.

The national team were summoned for an impromptu practice session

yesterday evening at Maccabi Ramat Gan's Winter Stadium ground after Maccabi Tel Aviv's EuroLeague game with Red Star Belgrade of Yugoslavia was postponed due to the troubles in Kosovo.

Israel are preparing for the second

round of the European Championship semi-finals stage. They have three games coming up: against Belarus on November 25 in Minsk, and then at home against Ukraine (November 28) and Denmark (December 2).

As Maccabi's game against Red

Star could be held at the time when there is a EuroLeague hiatus, Katzurin feared that most of his players, who are Maccabi men, would be unavailable for practice and so decided to hold the practice with almost all his players present.

Penguins stop Devils; Islanders beat Lightning

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — German Titov scored his first two goals for Pittsburgh and Jaromir Jagr had two assists to lead the Penguins to a 3-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Wednesday night.

Stu Barnes also scored for Pittsburgh and goaltender Tom Barrasso stopped 22 shots as the Penguins spoiled Robbie Ftorek's home debut as the Devils' coach.

The Penguins, who filed for bankruptcy protection early this week, are 2-0 for the first time since the strike-shortened 1994-95 season. The Devils' 0-2 start is their first since 1983-84.

Islanders 2, Lightning 0
In Tampa, Florida, Tommy Salo got his 10th career shutout and Gino Odjick snapped a 29-game, goal-scoring drought as the New York Islanders beat the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The Islanders have won the last six meetings between the teams, including four consecutive shutouts.

Odjick's first-period goal was his first since last Dec. 17 at Phoenix. Claude LaPointe added a short-handed goal for the Islanders

with 7:30 left in the third period. Salo stopped 22 shots, including a third-period scoring chance by No. 1 draft pick Vincent Lecavalier during a two-on-one.

Bruins 3, Avalanche 0
In Denver, Byron Dafee stopped 34 shots for his second straight shutout, and Ray Bourque had a goal and an assist as the Boston Bruins beat the winless Colorado Avalanche.

Jason Allison and Joe Thornton also scored for the Bruins, who beat the Avalanche for the first time in four meetings in Denver. The Avalanche are 0-3 for the first time in the 20-year history of the franchise, which started as the Quebec Nordiques.

Dafee, who blanked the New York Islanders on Monday, got his ninth career shutout and extended Colorado's scoreless streak to 137 minutes.

Oilers 4, Canucks 1
In Vancouver, British Columbia, Boris Mironov had a goal and two assists as the Edmonton Oilers won their first game of the season.

The Oilers, who snapped a four-game losing streak in Vancouver going back to Dec. 23, 1996, went

3-for-7 on the power play after starting the season 0-for-8 with the man advantage.

Todd McAmmond had two assists for the Oilers, who opened the season with two losses.

Mark Messier scored the Canucks' lone goal on a power play, ending goalie Mikhail Shtalenkov's shutout bid with 4:36 left in regulation. The goal was Messier's first of the season and 598th of his career, two short of becoming the 10th-NHL player to reach the 600-goal plateau.

N.Y. Islanders 10-1-2
Tampa Bay 0-0-0
First Period—1, New York, Odjick 1 (Fetich, Csizkewski), 8:43. Second Period—None. Third Period—2, New York, LaPointe 1, 12:30 (sh). Shots on goal—New York 7-11-5-23. Tampa Bay 6-4-12-22. Power-play opportunities—New York 0 of 5; Tampa Bay 0 of 4. Goalsies—New York, Salo 1-2-0 (22 shots-22 saves); Tampa Bay, Puppa 0-1-1 (23-21). A-11,753 (19,768).

Pittsburgh 2-0-1-3
New Jersey 0-0-1-1
First Period—None. Second Period—1, Pittsburgh, Barnes 1 (Jagr), 5:57. Third Period—2, Pittsburgh, Titov 1 (Mironov), 2:14. 3, Pittsburgh, Titov 2 (Wernke, Jagr), 13:20 (pp.). 4, New Jersey, Amott 1 (Bombardeir, Andreychuk), 13:33. Shots on

goal—Pittsburgh 5-8-12-25. New Jersey 10-7-6-23. Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 1 of 5; New Jersey 0 of 2. Goalsies—Pittsburgh, Barrasso 2-0-0 (23 shots-22 saves); New Jersey, Brodeur 0-2-0 (25-22). A-14,502 (19,040).

Boston 2-0-1-3
Colorado 0-0-0-0
First Period—1, Boston, Bourque 1 (Samsonov, Allison), 8:29 (pp.). 2, Boston, Allison 1 (Krisich, Elliot), 15:44. Second Period—None. Third Period—3, Boston, Thornton 1 (Van Impe, Bourque), 15:23 (pp.). Shots on goal—Boston 13-4-6-23. Colorado 8-9-17-34. Power-play opportunities—Boston 2 of 5; Colorado 0-0-0-0.

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Philadelphia 2 0 0 4 5 1
Pittsburgh 2 0 0 4 7 4
New York Islanders 1 2 0 2 5 7
New Jersey 0 2 0 0 2 5
N.Y. Rangers 0 3 0 0 3 12
Northeast Division
Montreal 2 0 0 4 8 1
Ottawa 2 0 0 4 8 4
Toronto 2 0 0 4 5 3
Boston 1 0 1 3 6 3
Buffalo 1 1 0 2 4 4
Southeast Division
Florida 2 0 0 4 5 1
Washington 1 1 0 2 3 3
Carolina 0 1 1 1 6 7
Tampa Bay 0 2 1 1 5 10

Colorado 0 of 6.
Goalsies—Boston, Datoe 2-0-1 (34 shots-34 saves). Colorado, Roy 0-3-0 (23-20). A-18,061 (18,061).

Edmonton 2-1-1-4
Vancouver 0-0-1-1
First Period—1, Edmonton, Falloon 1 (Mironov, Hanrik), 2:27 (pp.). 2, Edmonton, Mironov 1 (Kovalenko, Bernacki), 8:25. Second Period—2, Edmonton, K.Brown 2 (Mironov, McAmmond), 13:31 (pp.). Third Period—4, Edmonton, Marchant 1 (McAmmond, Nilnina), 1:15 (pp.). 5, Vancouver, Messier 1 (May, Mogilny), 15:24 (pp.). Goalsies—Edmonton, Shtalenkov 1-2-0 (13 shots-12 saves). Vancouver, Snow 1-1-0 (24-20). A-14,474 (18,422).

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division
St. Louis 1 0 1 3 7 5
Hartford 1 0 1 2 3 4
Detroit 1 0 1 2 4 4
Nashville 1 0 1 2 3 3
Northwest Division
Calgary 1 0 1 3 8 6
Vancouver 1 0 0 2 4 2
Colorado 0 2 0 0 3 7
Edmonton 0 2 0 0 3 5
Pacific Division
Dallas 2 0 0 4 7 2
Los Angeles 1 1 0 2 4 5
San Jose 0 1 1 1 6 8
Phoenix 0 1 0 0 1 4
Anaheim 0 3 0 0 1 6

Rafi Cohen's mistake keeps Camacho in credit

MADRID (Reuters) — The Spanish media, desperate for success, yesterday hailed their country's toothless 2-1 win over Israel on Wednesday as the start of a bright new era under coach Jose Antonio Camacho.

Two mistakes from Israel goalkeeper Rafi Cohen gifted Spain victory after an embarrassing 3-2 defeat by Cyprus in the opening match of the campaign.

Sport, the Barcelona newspaper, led the applause, describing the result as "a resurrection after the humiliation in Cyprus".

Former coach Javier Clemente was forced by media pressure to resign after the Cyprus debacle.

Madrid-based rival *Marca* was slightly more critical and called Joseba Etxeberria's second-half winner "manna from heaven".

But an editorial recognized: "Victory, and the three points, were the most important thing."

"Spain demonstrated their power to come back from behind. They showed real character."

That Spain had to come from a goal down was due to a terrible performance in the opening hour. Camacho's side failed to impose any authority in midfield, where Eyal Berkovic was outstanding, and looked nervous in front of goal. Raul and Kiko both missing excellent chances.

And it was no more than Israel deserved when they went ahead after 63 minutes. Alon Hazan firing home from the edge of the area after a fluent move.

But Fernando Hierro got them back into the match two minutes

later with a powerful free kick and Etxeberria wrapped up victory 13 minutes from time.

And the new coach promised a continued emphasis on fight rather than flair in the side's forthcoming fixtures.

"We came to win and we won — that's the important thing."

We've improved as a group but we have to continue fighting. The Spanish Press and public are sticking with Camacho for now, as this victory, however scrappy, marks a major improvement on the side's showing against Cyprus.

But Camacho could find himself subjected to some of the same treatment meted out to Clemente if Spain do not show a little more star quality in their next qualifier, at home to Austria on March 27 next year.

England win is little help for Hoddle

LONDON (Reuters) — England's uninspired performance in their 3-0 win over Luxembourg in a European qualifier has brought no respite for beleaguered coach Glenn Hoddle.

Yesterday brought another crop of dismissive headlines in the English dailies, including "Boring, Boring Hoddle" in the *Daily Mirror*.

Jeered by their own fans after the match for the second time in five days, England now have four points from their first three group matches and face a stiff battle to qualify.

It is not merely the results which have disappointed supporters but the manner of the play.

"No enthusiasm, no fight," was the succinct verdict of one fan after

Wednesday's match in Luxembourg.

Hoddle is the prime scapegoat and several of the tabloid papers had called for his head after the draw 0-0 draw at home to Bulgaria on Saturday.

Bookmakers have already made him an odds-on favorite to be out of his job by the end of the season in May.

The *Times* soccer correspondent Oliver Holt wrote on yesterday: "The abyss is still beckoning Glenn Hoddle, his future still in doubt." Holt said the three goals England scored was the minimum requirement to keep Hoddle in his job.

"Anyone who takes heart from this faltering performance will be deluding themselves," he wrote.

The players themselves have

gone increasingly on the defensive as the anti-Hoddle press campaign has mounted.

"We're only human beings and we have feelings as well," captain Alan Shearer said when questioned about the jeers that greeted them after the last two internationals.

But he did concede: "The fans have paid a lot of money to come here and they are entitled to their opinion."

England and Hoddle may gain some respite from the angry headlines as their next European qualifier is not until March when they entertain Poland.

But as Hoddle's predecessors have discovered, once the British tabloid press have their teeth into something juicy, they rarely let go.

Only two National League matches tomorrow

By ORI LEWIS

There are only two National League games being played this weekend, and fittingly, it will allow a slow build up of momentum towards full league play next weekend. Local fans need a bit of an uplift after the disappointment of Israel's 2-1 loss to Spain on Wednesday.

The featured match of the two being played tomorrow is the clash between Hapoel Tel Aviv and Betar Jerusalem at Bloomfield.

There is little love lost between the two clubs and their respective supporters following events last season in which Hapoel Beit She'an were alleged to have given Betar the advantage over Hapoel in the run in to the championship. Hapoel will be out for revenge.

In the other match, Maccabi Haifa host Hapoel Kfar Sava at Kiryat Eliezer.

Both matches had to be rearranged as Haifa and Betar played in European cup action when the rest of the fifth round of matches were played the weekend before last.

National League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Haifa	5	4	0	1	8	0	12
Hapoel Petah Tikva	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Maccabi Petah Tikva	5	3	1	1	15	6	10
Betar Jerusalem	4	3	1	0	11	6	10
Hapoel Jerusalem	5	3	0	2	11	7	9
Maccabi Herzliya	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Zedim Holon	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Ramat Kfar Sava	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Hapoel Tel Aviv	4	2	0	2	2	3	6
Bnei Yehuda	5	1	2	2	8	7	5
Ironi Ashdod	5	1	2	2	8	11	5
Ironi Kiryat Shmona	5	1	2	2	7	13	5
Maccabi Haifa	4	1	1	2	7	6	4
Maccabi Tel Aviv	5	1	1	3	9	13	4
Hapoel Beit She'an	5	0	1	4	2	14	1
Maccabi Haifa	5	0	0	5	1	16	0

England fans slam World Cup policing

LONDON (Reuters) — A leading English soccer supporters body yesterday slammed the policing of England fans at this year's World Cup finals.

It also described the ticket distribution system at the tournament in France as "disgraceful".

WINNING CARDS

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing

7	Q	J	7
8	8	K	Q
J	9	10	J

Inside

Camacho
earns some
credit

Page 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisKatash
trains
with Israel
May rejoin Maccabi

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

An out-of-form Oded Katash yesterday took part in his first organized basketball training session since winning the National League title with Maccabi Tel Aviv earlier this year when he trained with the national team.

Katash, who is currently on hold and cannot sign with the New York Knicks until the NBA lockout is resolved. The only basketball he has seen since leaving Israel has been some informal practice with New Jersey Nets star Jason Williams.

As the dispute in the NBA continues, Katash has decided to concentrate on regaining match fitness. His best option appears to be a return to Maccabi Tel Aviv, with whom he is still registered as a player.

See KATASH, Page 23

West Ham
dismiss reports
of Berkovic
transfer request

By MARK RIVLIN

LONDON - West Ham United yesterday rejected reports that Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovic wanted an immediate transfer.

In a press release, the club categorically denied reports that Berkovic had requested a transfer, describing the player's alleged request to move following the recent training ground incident with John Hartson as coming from "an ill-informed Israeli journalist."

The statement continued: "There is no problem between Eyal Berkovic and John Hartson and they will both line up hoping to defeat Premiership leaders Aston Villa tomorrow. Eyal completely denies that he has asked for a transfer."

But according to yesterday's *Daily Mail*, which had a back-page lead on Berkovic, the player has given his agent, Pini Zahavi, ten days to find him another club or he would find another representative to take care of his employment concerns.

The story alleges that Berkovic was unhappy at the way Zahavi leaked the training ground story.

Berkovic met with West Ham's director of football Peter Storr before Israel's Euro 2000 match with Spain on Wednesday and agreed to publicly shake hands with Hartson ahead of the game with Villa. Despite this reconciliation, Berkovic was still determined to leave, the paper claimed.

Interest is still very high in the feud and West Ham have had a surge of applications for press credentials from Israeli journalists for tomorrow's game.

The game will be broadcast live on Football Plus (cable channel 24 starting at 4 p.m.)

Padres two-hit Braves to take NL pennant



The San Diego team celebrate with Trevor Hoffman after he retired the Braves, allowing the Padres to advance to the World Series.

(Reuters)

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Sterling Hitchcock and four relievers combined on a two-hitter and the Padres capitalized on an error by left fielder Danny Bautista to score all their runs in the sixth inning and defeat Atlanta, 5-0, in the National League Championship Series Wednesday.

The Padres won the best-of-seven series, 4-2, to advance to the World Series for only the second time in their 30-year history and their first since 1984.

The Padres will face the New York Yankees in the first game of the World Series on Saturday night.

Hitchcock, who played for the Yankees before being traded in 1995, also won Game Three for the Padres and was named Most Valuable Player of the series.

"This is incredible," said Hitchcock, who began the year in the Padres' bullpen. "It's great. I was a wreck coming here, but I went to church, asked God about it and calmed down."

The Braves lost the first three games to the Padres before rallying to win back-to-back contests.

Atlanta lost three games at home where they scored just two runs and hit a horrible 140.

Atlanta won a league-best 106 games and captured its seventh straight division title, but has just one World Series triumph in that span.

Tom Glavine (0-2) lost for the second time in the series, allowing five runs - two earned - and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings with three walks and two strikeouts.

Glavine had retired eight straight batters before Greg Vaughn, making his first start since the series opener due to a strained left quadriceps muscle, singled to left field with one out in the sixth. Despite the injury, manager Bruce Bochy called for a hit-and-run and Ken Caminiti grounded a ball to the vacated hole at second base to put runners on first and third. Jim Leyritz drove in his ninth run of the postseason by grounding out weakly to third. Wally Joyner followed by grounding a single up the middle to make it 2-0.

Chris Gomez walked to load the

bases before Hitchcock lofted a fly ball to shallow left field on a 0-2 pitch.

Bautista, playing unusually deep against a pitcher, charged in and then stumbled, losing sight of the ball in the early evening twilight. The ball bounced off his glove as two more runs scored.

"I have no offense," Hitchcock

said. "That's my biggest at bat in my career there. Going back to little league, going back to coming over here, it's no mystery that I cannot hit. But I knew I had to do something there. Two runs were not comfortable... I knew I had to put the ball in play maybe something happens."

John Rucker replaced Glavine and allowed a run-scoring single to right field by Quirova Veras, increasing the lead to 5-0.

A Padres' bullpen that was ineffective in losses on Sunday and Monday shut down the Braves over the final four innings.

Hitchcock left after issuing back-to-back walks to open the sixth. Brian Boehringer retired Chipper Jones, Andres Galarraga and Javy

Lopez in order to end the threat.

Boehringer worked 1 1/3 innings and was followed by Mark Langston and Joey Hamilton. Trevor Hoffman retired the side in order in the ninth.

Atlanta left runners at third base in the second and fourth. Galarraga walked in the second and worked his way to third on a pair of wild pitches before Bautista struck out.

The Braves had their only hits in the fourth - singles by Gerald Williams and Lopez. But Andruw Jones ended the frame by flying out to left field.

Game 6
San Diego 005 000-5 10 0
Atlanta 000 000-0 2 1
Hitchcock, Boehringer (6), Langston (7), J. Hamilton (7), Hoffman (9) and Leyritz, C. Hernandez (7), Glavine, Rucker (6), DeMartinez (8), Neagle (8) and J. Lopez, W-Hitchcock, 2-0, L-Glavine, 0-2.

Scharf: I am to blame,
not Rafi CohenIsrael coach berated after accusing
goalkeeper for loss to Spain

By ORI LEWIS

National team coach Shlomo Scharf yesterday retracted his statement that his first-choice goalkeeper, Rafi Cohen, was to blame for Israel's loss to Spain on Wednesday when he said that the fault was, in fact, his own.

Scharf was incensed by the two errors which Cohen made in the last half-hour of the match which gave away a 1-0 lead and dashed the high expectations of the whole nation after it was finally felt that Israel were ready to play with the big boys of European soccer.

Cohen accepted the wrath of his coach, who said he would never play for Israel again, but said he was disappointed with the way it was displayed.

"I have to live with the deci-

sion, we all make mistakes, but it was a pity that I was berated by Shlomo in the media, rather than having a face-to-face chat with him," Cohen said on Radio 2 yesterday.

When asked by a TV interviewer immediately after the match if Cohen was to blame for the two goals, an emotional Scharf retorted: "So who do you think is to blame, the Lubavitcher rebbe?"

Although he could not contain his rage, Scharf realized yesterday that he had taken things too far and said:

"It's my fault, I picked Cohen when I knew he wasn't in top form so I must take the blame. But he will not play for Israel again."

"The national team's new No. 1 keeper will be Nir Davidovich," Scharf continued.

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS - Tim Henman of Britain rallied to beat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-3 in the \$800,000 CA Trophy tournament in Vienna last night. See earlier report Page 23.

If Brown dominates, Padres could whip Yankees

Well, there goes the World Series, or at least the World Series the networks wanted. The San Diego Padres don't hit well enough to beat the New York Yankees. But then, the Atlanta Braves didn't hit well enough to beat the Padres.

The truth is, New York-San Diego is far more interesting than it appears. Tony Gwynn is one of the greatest hitters ever. The Yankees want to be one of the greatest teams ever. And Kevin Brown alone makes an upset possible.

These teams have never met, yet they're strangely linked. Greg Vaughn would have been a Yankee if he hadn't flunked a physical. Jim Leyritz earned his nickname, "King," in New York and Hideki Irabu refused to play for San Diego.

Granted, New York-Atlanta would have been sexier, a rematch of the dramatic 1996 World Series. But how can anyone mourn the absence of the Braves, when they clearly were not the best team in the National League?

That's six times in seven years that the Braves have faltered in the postseason. Anyone who calls them chokers doesn't know baseball.

But their bullpen is never good enough. Come to think of it, their hitting isn't, either.

Hindsight is 20-20, but would the Braves be mulling another postseason disappointment if they had acquired All-Star second baseman Roberto Alomar from the Baltimore Orioles in July?

The Orioles apparently were willing to trade Alomar and Armando Benitez for Denny Neagle and Triple-A left-hander Bruce Chen,

but the Braves didn't want to part with one of their top young arms.

Their decision was understandable for starting pitching has been the cornerstone of their success. But

Alomar certainly would have helped a team that was unable to manufacture runs against San Diego, relying almost solely on homers.

The old baseball adage, "the best Oriole is a former Oriole," will be on display in Game 1, when Brown (class of '95) faces David Wells (class of '96). The winner will receive an autographed picture of Peter Angelos with the inscription, "Gillick should have never let you go."

The Padres' only chance is if Brown dominates the series, stealing Game 1 at Yankee Stadium, then pitching Game 4 in San Diego and possibly Game 7 back in New York.

Brown, who lost twice to Cleveland's Chad Ogea in last year's Series, needs to be Lew Burdette in 1957, Bob Gibson in 1968, Orel Hersheiser in 1988.

Wells? He just needs to stay out of trouble.

The Padres, on the other hand, lack offensive personalities and celebrity ex-wives. What are the fans in the right-field bleachers going to do when they see Gwynn, taunt him for not winning a ninth batting title?

The Padres feature four ex-Yankees - Sterling Hitchcock, Brian Boehringer, Ruben Rivera and Leyritz. The first three made little impact in New York, and Leyritz isn't likely to get booed - he hit a

pivotal three-run homer off Mark Wohlers that helped the Yankees win the '96 Series.

If there's a rivalry here, it's between the front offices, who spent

half of '97 haggling over the Hideki Irabu trade and then the Vaughn deal that the Yankees voided. The Padres initially controlled Irabu's

rights, but the Japanese pitcher said he only wanted to play for the Yankees. After protracted negotiations, the Yankees acquired Irabu, Homer Bush and two minor-leaguers for outfielder Ruben Rivera, minor-league pitcher Rafael Medina and \$3 million.

Of that group, Rivera might play the greatest role in this Series - Irabu has yet to appear in the postseason as a reliever, and Bush is nothing more than a pinch runner. Vaughn, of course, is a far more important figure. But if the Yankees had acquired him, they might never have landed third baseman Scott Brosius.

The Padres agreed to send Vaughn to New York as part of a six-player trade in which they would have received Kenny Rogers and Mariano Duncan. The Yankees nullified the deal after their doctors found that Vaughn had a torn right rotator cuff, but have no regrets.

They later sent Rogers to Oakland for Brosius, their '98 MVP, according to Derek Jeter.

Vaughn didn't fare too badly himself, hitting 50 homers for a team that didn't want him. Still, the problem with the Padres is that none of their hitters is considered as danger-

ous as Manny Ramirez, Jim Thome, or even the sluggers formerly known as Chipper Jones and Andres Galarraga.

Vaughn, obviously, is no slouch, but he missed most of the NLCS with a quadriceps injury before going 2-for-4 Wednesday in the Padres' 5-0 clincher over Atlanta. Gwynn is a declining singles hitter who was 6-for-26 in the NLCS. Leyritz owns a better postseason home run ratio than Babe Ruth, but doesn't even play every day.

The Yankees' starting pitching looks more vulnerable than it has all season, and we'll stand by that argument. But if a David Cone or Andy Pettitte falters, there's an Irabu or Ramiro Mendoza in the bullpen. And the Padres simply don't have the offensive weapons to prevent the Yankees from meeting their rightful destiny.

With all due respect to Larry Lucchino, Fred Uhlman Jr., Davey Lopes, Steve Finley and the rest of the former Oriole contingent in San Diego: Yankees in five.

(The Baltimore Sun)

WORLD SERIES

(All times EST)
Tomorrow: San Diego (Brown 18-7) at New York (Wells 18-4), 8 pm.
Sunday: San Diego at New York, 7:55 pm.
Tuesday: New York at San Diego, 8:20 pm.
Wednesday: New York at San Diego, 8:20 pm.
Thursday: New York at San Diego, 8:20 pm.
Saturday, Oct. 24: San Diego at New York, 8 pm, if necessary.
Sunday, October 25: San Diego at New York, 7:55 pm, if necessary.

BBC cricket coverage hit for Four

By MARK RIVLIN

LONDON - In one of the biggest shake-ups in the history of cricket broadcasting, the England and Wales Cricket

Board announced yesterday that the terrestrial Channel Four station had been granted the main rights to televise Test cricket in England from next season.

The deal, worth £103 million over four years to the ECB, also involves the satellite Sky TV channel which will broadcast one of next year's Tests along with evening highlights

of play. Sky will also cover most of the televised domestic cricket.

The move to Channel Four is a major blow to the BBC, which has enjoyed a monopoly of television coverage of Test cricket in England since 1938. Much of the money will be earmarked by the ECB to improve cricket at grass-roots level.

Despite an improved bid from the corporation with better broadcasting and marketing options, Channel Four was granted the commission because of what ECB chairman Lord MacLaurin described as its invigorating approach to broadcasting. "We are sorry that our long association with the BBC has come to an end, but we need to relaunch cricket in a fresh and exciting way. We are looking forward to a long and successful partnership with Channel Four and Sky," he said.

This view was shared by Professional Cricketer's Association chairman Matthew Fleming who said

yesterday: "Channel Four being linked to the sport may attract people who have not been interested and that has got to be good."

Channel Four controller Michael Jackson confirmed at a press conference that coverage would be revamped under his channel's stewardship with more and better camera angles.

"We will try to give the viewer the feeling of what it is like for a batsman to face a ball hurtling at him at 90 miles per hour," he said.

Jackson refused to comment as to whether Channel Four had approached the BBC's team of television commentators stating his new team would be announced soon.

Channel Four is a commercial broadcaster - as such viewers will have to get used to advertisements between overs. But Jackson said that day-time programming schedules would not be affected. "This is an extra for our viewers, schedules will not change," he said.

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